

**The Chronicle
Of
Knights And Simmons**

**By
Carmon Knight Mercer**

Oct. 27, 1986. Monday from Carmine Mercer to
Ora Felia Knight Mallory, (at my home 146 W. 4th St. Greenville Ky.
This Page dedicated To my Father, Mother & Aunts, Uncles & Father
Samuel Franklin Knight, His descendants, theirs, & ours who live
& ways have touched ours ^{lives} - days, past and gone.
whose memoirs we treasure. So many of Their lives been a bless
ing to ours,

ing to and,
To the Church, whose memory is so dear to me its members & pastor
part of our Spiritual life, as of July 22, 1922. ^{Sunday a.m., Nolan Wang and I} Accepted Christ as
my personal Saviour Baptized - to his body of believers in Jesus
Christ, Our Lord, & Saviour
This is the first of 24 pp. of Book 2-38

Christ, Our Lord, & Saviour
Sunday Gm.
Aug. 1976. Baptized in The Stokes Pond at Elkhorn Ky. Oct 2-38
Melvin Lela. Tad. Mallory & Russell Bristle, Bro Billy Fuller St Charles
Ky.
The profession of This Faith I held fast to the end. (my Prayer in Jesus Name)
I died as he did: by death

Most all whose names herein. Hacked off by the debt of sin; by death ^{Arise} physically
whose names we pray where on the Lamb's "Book of Life"

"Memory is a Gift of God, which no one can destroy"

"Memory is a gift of God, which no one can take away from us."
This book is in memory of my Descendants, Knights Ruth Baker, Wobbs-
To Melvin, my husband & Father G. W. Covington as of Oct. 30. 1925 -
became my G. Father also. His Mother Lucinda Stokes Covington
is Malbury Wooten I find her name

became my G-Dad also. Her Mother
To the G-dam of Carmen whose name is Mallory Wooten I find her name
is in here B. May 1984, also her descendants The Bakers, Mahluky &
Hobbs. (I have not made her acquaintance yet.)

So much has, & been said would make a book. I find in Book
 word & the books were opened, and then "The Book" of Life whose names
 were written there in "Thank God for his words of life" Hope of Earth & Joy
 Joy of Heaven.



The six sons of John Franklin and Mary Baugh Knight and grandsons of Radney and Mary Simmons Knight. L to R: James Henry Harrison, (b. 1843-d.1925), Presley Martin, (b. 1845-d. 1912), John Franklin, Jr., (b. 1848-d. 1923), Samuel Frances, (b. 1849-d. 19-?), George Libby, (b. 1852-d. 1931), William Yomen, (b. 1864-d. 19-?).

**THE CHRONICLE OF
KNIGHTS AND SIMMONS**

**BY
CARMON KNIGHT MERCER**



MCDOWELL PUBLICATIONS
Route 4 Box 314
Utica, KY 42378

The Chronical of Knights and Simmons

Preface

This book respectfully dedicated to my late father, James William Knight and my late cousin, Georgia Chrosthwaite, who helped me get started on it in 1952. She died of a heart attact before she could finish the story, and so did my Dad. Cleo Cook Jernigan, my cousin has helped me in my research for facts where ever we could find them.

I have searched librularies, court house records, and talked to older people and young, or anyone that would talk to me, to try to get it all straight.

My desire is to tell it like it is or was, and to harm no ones reputation, or tell anything that should remain untold. My subjects have become so real and alive to me, that it seems like I know all of them personally. I am looking forward to meeting them in the next world, and sincerely hope to meet every one in, "Gods' Wonderful World of Tomarrow". I hope this will bless every one that reads it like it has me writing it.

I was told when I started this family tree not to shake the tree too hard, or I might shake out a skunk, but I believe every family has some stinkers, and I am proud of them too. Maybe they learned from the mistakes.

This is something I have to do if I live long enough, if not maybe someone will finish it for me. I hope every one that is a relative of the Knight and Simmons family can feel a love and pride in the fact you are one of the clan. Lets remember that these people had a lot of hardships to endure in a new country for us to have this good place to live and enjoy.

I am so thankful that God gave me the privilege to live in the greatest country on earth in the greatest civilization in the history of the world. And to live at the time of the rise of that great nation.

Carmon Knight Mercer Robert Mercer Feb. 12, 1979



Contents

	Page
Emigrants of North Carolina	1
Radney Knight of Logan and Butler Counties	4
Radney and Mary W. Simmons Knight's Children	6
Radney Mack and Mary Ann Mayhew Knight's Children	8
John Franklin and Mary Ann Baugh Knight	10
John F. and Mary Ann's Children	11
William Yomen Knight and Family	12
George Libby Knight and Family	14
Samuel Frances and Family	15
John F., Jr. and Family	19
Presley Martin and Family	20
James Henry Harrison and Family	24
Deed and Will of Radney Knight, Sr.	33
Model Mills or Skilesville	35
William Simmons	39
Deed or Will of William Simmons	40
Children of William Simmons	42
Elizabeth Simmons Rust and Family	43

Contents (cont.)

	Page
Richard Henry and Nancy Luce Simmons	44
Richard Henry and Rebecca C. Williams Simmons	54
Simmons Chapel Church	56
Simmons Chapel Cemetery	57
Union Chapel Church	59
Union Chapel Church Members	61
Union Chapel Business Meeting Minutes	64
Simmons Chapel School	67
Luces of Skilesville	70
Slavery Stories of Skilesville Community	73
Mary Annie Baugh Knight from page 8 (cont.)	76
John and Elizabeth Baugh	77
Jessie Simmons Dyce (cont. from page 40)	78
Rock Spring Church	80
Land Grants in Kentucky	82

The Beginning

In October of 1951, I received a letter from Georgia Chrosthwaite of Garden Grove, Cal. It was written the 28th. She was seeking information from my father of the Simmons family. Her mother was a Simmons, a relative of his on his mother's side.

Georgia, and sisters, Alwilda, Elizabeth, and their father, visited us in the summer of 1952. I corresponded with her until her death, Aug. 26, 1966. I became as interested in the family tree as she was. I have worked on it since at odd times. I know my time is running out too, so I hope I can finish it.

I have used every source of information I could find, and covered several miles driving, looking for records and talking to older people. My life's work will not be complete until I get it all together to leave to others that may be interested in family history.

My mother, Zella Ball Knight told me she heard the Knights' came from Virginia and Scotland. Another source said Ireland and North Carolina. Some records lead to the first and others to the last and both could be right.

In 1776 there were 13 Colonies, Vir. N.C. and S.C. were three of them. The early settlers crossed them, stopping, along the way to the mountain pass at Cumberland Gap, to enter Kentucky, Co. then part of Va. There they traveled the, "Wilderness Road", which was only an Indian and buffalo trail, to parts mostly unknown.

North Carolina

North Carolina, Territory was established in 1653. Groups of settlers came from Va. before the Revolution, to settle there and travel on looking for a better place to live and make a living. Some had a trade and others farmed.

Highland Scotch immigrants came frequently to N.C. for religious reasons. Large groups of Scotch Irish came. Their Protestant views caused them to be banished from Scotland. There was no separation of church and state, so the people had to abide by the government rule.

The church of England was a branch off of the Catholic church and the laws of the church was the laws of the British Isles. There was no freedom of worship as we know it in America today. Some had money to come to America, but others came as bond people. These bond people's fair was paid by someone else, and after they arrived here they were bound to work for that person until the debt was paid. Then they were free.

The first Pioneers survived on wild game meat which was plentiful. Wild greens were too in season. Their main crop they learned from the Indians was maize, called corn. The soil was rich and it grew without much cultivation. Corn was used for many purposes. It was used for frying in the dough stage, and boiling, and baking. When dry, for meal and animal feed. The cob could be burned for fuel, and the ashes as a by product of soda or lye for soap making, mixed with animal fat. The fat also for lamps and candles.

Some families had spinning wheels, flax wheels, cards, and looms to make their clothing. Wool was made from sheep and buffalo hair, for making clothing. The help of the friendly Indians also helped them survive.

Women did all the jobs they were strong enough to do. They knew the right herb mixture to use for medicine for the family. They also manned the guns to protect the home when the men were away, from wild animals and savage Indians. Rattlesnakes were a nuisance too.

Life for the pioneer woman was very hard. They usually died young. Child bearing and hard work took its toll early in life. Most men had more than one wife, and several children.



GEORGE LIBBY KNIGHT'S FAMILY
 Front row, L to R: Marvin, George L., Dolphus, Annie, Ovelia Knight
 Coin, Margaret Knight Johnson (a cousin of George), and Della Knight
 Dorris. Photo property of Mrs. Mattie Knight Cox, a daughter of
 George. Not pictured is another daughter, Ila K. English.

Radney Knight Pioneer of Butler Co. Kentucky

Radney Knight was born Dec. 5, 1797 in North Carolina, just what part has never been established as far as I know.

The first census was taken in 1790. It only listed heads of households by first names. Family first names weren't listed until 1850. Radney was grown married and dead by then.

The census record of Halifax Co. N.C. of 1790 lists two Knights.

Ephraim, with two free white males, 16 yrs. and up. Three males under 16. Two females, and 4 other free people, and 8 slaves.

William Knight, male, 1 female, & 1 slave.

If either of these was Radneys' father I have no way of knowing. The dates are right for either as he wasn't yet born. If I could choose one it would be William. Radney had a son named Ephraim and one William too. My father was William also.

This would make my father named for his two great grandfathers. William Knight and William Simmons on his mother's side.

Bradford Co. Tennessee

This is another story of a William Knight, that could be the same one as these people traveled a lot.

About three miles south of Shelbyville, Tenn. is located on an old land mark known as "Knights' Camp Ground", so called from the fact that in the early days of Shelbyville one Rev. William Knight held a camp meeting for several years. According to tradition drew attention from near and far distances, as well as attendants.

About a half mile from the camp ground is a small private cemetery, overgrown with underbrush and briars. Rev. William Knight and his life's companion, Elizabeth is buried. The inscriptions read as follows.

William Knight age 77 died Mar. 14, 1839 born 1762.

Elizabeth Knight, age 71 died Nov. 11, 1839 born 1768.

Today the name Knight is not recognized by the residents living there.

William and his wife were probably married in Virginia for the two children on this record were born there so they could have had Radney as they came through N.C. on their way to Tenn. or Virginia.

The two sons of William are:

Gabriel B. born in Va. 1806.

Obediah Woodson born in Va. 1808.

These two sons went to Texas and settled on land now a part of Dallas. Obediah married Serena Hughes in 1822. They had 9 children, William, John, Mary, Elizabeth, Gabriel, Laura, Martha Epps G., and Robert E. Lee. Robert became a lawyer. These all have our family names. If this William was our Radneys' father he would be a older child.

Logan Co. Ky.

Kentucky was the first territory west of the Appalachian mountains to be settled.

In Nov. 1780 the county of Ky. was formed into three counties, Fayette, Jefferson, and Lincoln. This continued until Feb. 1784. The first capitol was at Danville 1785.

Ky. was first made a district of Va. in 1783.

Kentucky secured permission from Va. in 1789 to form a state, it joined the union in 1792.

The early settlers came down the Ohio river, by flat boats, and through Cumberland Gap. Logan Co. was formed in 1792. At the time Ky. became a state it stretched from

Barren River to the Mississippi River, and from Tenn. to Ohio. Twenty-eight counties were carved from it. By 1800, Ky. had 42 counties.

Thousands of people came to Logan Co., buying land, squatting, and taking grants after the Civil war. was given to them for service.

Rich men from Virginia and the Carolinas grabbed the rich flat land of south Logan for plantations, and before the war brought in slaves and sided with the south.

Settlers of modest means settled in the north part of Logan and the hilly sections. They were republicans, and against slavery and true to the union. The soil of south Logan is reported to be fifty or sixty feet deep over limestone and very fertile. Class one soil with a slope of two percent or less.

Butler Co.

Butler Co. was taken from the hilly section of Logan Co. in 1810

Radney Knight our subject was first listed in the early Military and tax lists of Logan Co. in 1818 to 1820. There he married Mary (Polly) Simmons Sept. the 6th. 1816. He was 18 then. She was the daughter of William Simmons, my great great-grandfather. She was born June 10, 1801. This made her a bride at 15.

They settled near Herraldsville in the Rock Springs area now in Butler Co. Radney was first in their tax list in 1826.

In Kentucky land grants of Butler Co. court court orders lists, Radney Knight, 57 acres in Book 12 page 321. Date of survey Nov. 1, 1844 mud river. Radney Knight, 43 acres, book 12, page 323. Date of survey Nov. 1, 1844 Mud River. Also two other deeds, one taking in Rock Spring, where it is said he run a distillery. If it was legal I do not know. I suspect it wasn't, but they were legal then if you had a license.

People used whiskey for medicine back then, it was about all they had. Of a fact it could make you think you were cured for a while anyway. Medicine wasn't given much until the 1830's. My father said he was told Radney died from drinking, but not much was known then about the causes of death. So I like to think it wasn't that.

Radney evidently had no schooling for he signed his will with an X. Schools were few then and far between. When he came to the Rock Spring area it was still in the wilderness state. Indians still hunted there occasionally. Wild life was plentiful such as deer, bears, turkeys, and small game.

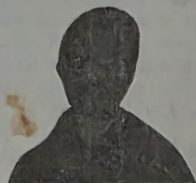
Large timber grew everywhere so log house material was there for the working man. Cutting and selling it was big business too. This place is still covered in timber today. It is composed of poor farm land mostly hills and valleys. Gravels are so deep the road to it never gets muddy. The hill top is scrub oak and catcus.

How anyone found the way from North Carolina to this place is a mystery to me with all due respect. Life must have been hard in both places.

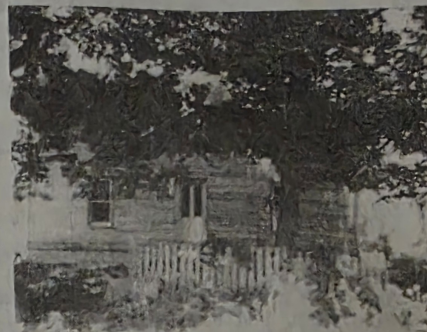
There is a house in the area I have been told that belonged to his son William G. The first time I was there was in 1952 or 53. There was a log house out on the main road. It had one large room in front with a porch and a boxed kitchen on the back.

Clarence Knight, the son of Daniel, the grandson of Radney lived there. He is dead now and it is torn down, only a few fruit trees, broken dishes, and flint chips mark the spot where it was. I don't know where Radneys' house set.

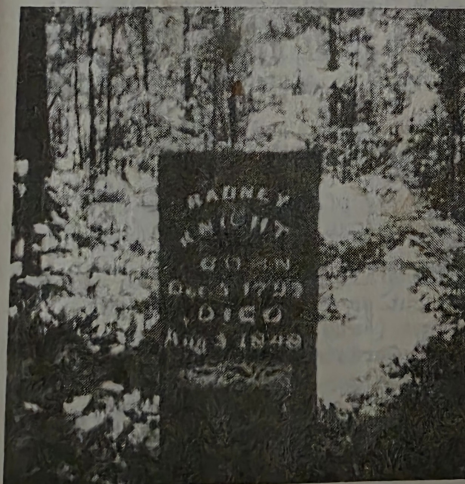
Radney died Aug. 5th, 1848. My father died on this date 116 yrs later. Radneys' wife Mary W. died Apr. 12, 1867. They are buried in a family cemetery, on his farm that was owned by Effie Hudnal, she is now dead. There is a tombstone at his and her graves. I had been told only two graves were there but we found about thirty. No other markers are there only low places outline the graves. Two stones are at his and Marys' graves. His was broken off. We reset it in 1966. There was also an old fence line around the cemetery.



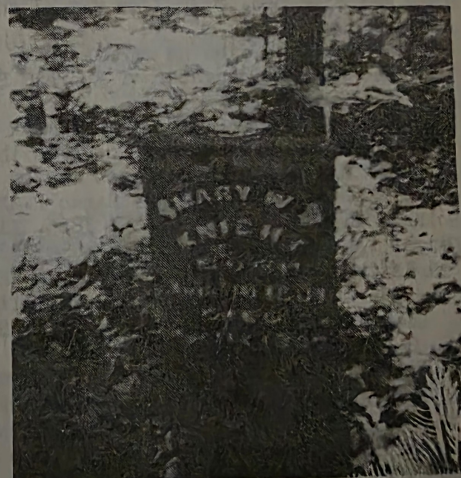
Mary Polly Baugh Knight
Mother of the six boys.



William Griffin Knight's house,
Butler County



Radney Knight's tombstone at
Knight Cemetery, Butler Co.



Mary W. Simmons' tombstone at
Knight Cemetery, Butler Co.

There is one thing I believe is certain and that is that Radney and Mary are buried on the hillside on his old farm along with unknown members of his family. There they await the morning of the resurrection, when the Lord the righteous judge shall reward every one according to the deeds done while here on earth. I sure hope they made the right preparation while here. He made a will, recorded in Butler Co. It is dated Sept. 19, 1845. He must have been sick for a while for he died 3 years later.

Radneys' and Marys' Children:

Butler Co. census of 1850:

Mary, Female, value of real estate, \$300. born in N.C. Age 48.

Radney Mack, 21, Andrew J. 17, Mary, 16 F. Mahalia M. 11, F, Henry W. 9, M

William Griffin, M. farmer, value of real estate, \$200.

Abbigale, 28, F. real estate, \$50.

Nancy J. 17 F, Southerlin Westley, 13, M Sara P. 6 F.

John F. Farmer, real estate \$250.

Polly, 28, F.

James H. 7, M Martin, 5, M. John 4, M. Samuel, 1, M.

Mary J. Baughe, 16, F. (maybe Pollys' relative)

Ephraim, 23, real estate, \$500.

According to the will William G. and John F. were living on the farm next door neighbors, for the census lists them next in line.

William Griffin was the oldest child. according to the headstone at Rock Spring cemetery he was born Mar. 9 1818, died June 3, 1894. He married Abbigale Goodman Oct. 14, 1839 in Butler Co. with the females mothers' consent. She was born May 10, 1820, and died Dec. 6, 1871. He was 21, and she was 19. They had 3 children listed in above census.

After Abbigale died he married Mary Frances (Moly) Welburn. She was born July 16 1820. She was the daughter of Ephraim Brank and Frances R. Adcock Welburn. She died June 16, 1925.

William was a charter member of Rock Spring Baptist church. And a Deacon for over 50 years. Four children were born to this union. Griffin E. who married Livia Johnson, Ruth Mae who married James Newton Forgy.

Rock Springs cemetery has Sarah P. Simmons, daughter of Wm. and Abbigale Knight. Born May 1, 1844, died Aug. 28, 1865. Also Nancy J. Mayhugh, daughter of W. and A. Knight. Age 22, B. Aug. 1840, died Oct. 2 1862.

Relatives still live in Butler Co. His old house still stands there. He and Abbigale are buried at Rock Spring. He left a will in Butler Co. dated, Sept. 1884.

Lucian Brank married Phoney Pearl Summer. Lorena (Kate) married James Westray. The 2nd. son George Washington, married Sara (Sally) Christmas in 1851, Logan Co. She was the daughter of Edward and Nancy Miller Christmas. George was born Mar. 12, 1824, died Mar. 31, 1882. They had several children, and lived around Rock Spring.

The Muhlenberg Co. census of 1860 lists, George living close to Radney Mack, in the Skilesville area. It lists, George Knight 28, Farmer value of real estate \$800, personal property, \$500. born in Ky.

Sarah, 29, domestic, Stephen, 8. Daniel B. 6. Mary, 4.

According to one of my informants, George hang himself in a barn at Rock Spring community. He was a charter member of that church. he would have been 10 yrs.

The 3rd. son Andrew Jackson, married Elizabeth Forgy in 1855. The Butler Co. census has him 17yrs. in 1850 and still at home. Elizabeth was the daughter of James and Ellender Jenkins Forgy.

They lived in the Rochester area. Their children were Wallace A. who married Susan Gill. Robert who married Biddie Moor. Elvira who married Dr. Richard Harpee. He practiced medicine at Quality, in Butler Co. And William A.

Elizabeth, married James Newton Forgy. Their four sons were William, John Crittendon, Thomas Jefferson, who went to Texas in the 1800s as a missionary for the church of Christ. John C. became a church of Christ preacher in Butler Co.

Henry W. died at the age of 16.
Buried at Rock Spring is Andy J. born Aug. 13, 1865. Died Jan. 4, 1930. He could have been the son of Andrew Jackson. Buried there also is Bettie Knight born Mar. 5, 1875. Died July 28, ?

Ephraim Knight, Radneys' son, married Malinda Tolbert at Morgantown, Ky. Jan. 23, 1845. She was the daughter of James and Sarah Tolbert. They had 6 children. After her death he married Sarah J. Rose who didn't live long. His third wife was Emma Eggleston, a native of England. They had 5 children. One boy was named Radney, he married Fannie Simmons. They lived at Rock Spring community.
Another boy named G.R. known as Rector. He took out a marriage bond Dec. 11, 1868 to Mary Jane Hunt. G.R. was 21 born in Butler Co. Father and mother too. Mary Jane was born in Muhlenberg Co. Father and mother too. They were married at Lott Hunts Dec. 23, 1868.

The only record I have of their children is a boy named Finnis, who lived in the Riverside community and was known as Black Finis because his hair was black and another Finis had red hair and he was known as Red Finis. Black Finis married Mary Penrod. They had 4 children, Johnnie, James, Bonnie Mary, & Wilbur. Finis had 1 sister, Bessie is all the record I have.

In Rock Spring cemetery is Ephraim Knight, born 1826 died 1896
Malissa, (other records are Malinda) born Oct. 3, 1828. Died Apr. 17, 1852.
Sarah J. wife of Ephraim born Aug. 31, 1828. Died Apr. 9, 1875.
Emma Egglton K. born 1853. Died 1928.

The present day Rock Spring church was established in Apr. 1870 Ephraim and his wife Sarah deeded $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land to them as a building site. This property and building still serves the community. Many of the Knights are buried there.

Old Knight Family Cemetery

A third tombstone was placed here in 1981 of Radney Knight's daughter, Elizabeth Knight Forgy, wife of J.N. Forgy. She was born 1832 died 1859
She is buried beside her mother, Mary W. Simmons Knight

Radney Mack Knight

Radney Mack, (Mack) was the 4th child of Radney and Mary W. Simmons Knight. He was born Nov. 22, 1828. My first record of him was the 1850 census, he was at home with his mother and age 21. The next was June 25 1855, when he and his brother, John F. came to Muhlenberg Co. and bought 120 acres of land on Green River for \$1200. He owned a one third interest. He was single and living with his brother until, he went back to Butler Co. for a wife and brought her to Muhlenberg.

Radney Mack Knight married Mary Ann Mayhew, at the residence of William Mayhew, witness, C. Kelly, James M Brown, by James E. Gardner, the 7th mo. and 3rd. day of 1858. Recorded in Butler Co. Marriage Book.

The 1860 microfilm census lists

Radney M. Knight, Farmer, age, 31. Value of real estate, \$1500. Personal property, \$300. Born in Ky.

Mary A. age, 26, domestic

The Paradise census of 1880 lists :

R. M. Knight, age 52, born in Ky.

Mary " " 46, " " N.C. Mother and father born in Va.

Martha E. 18. Benjamine S. 16, Laura 12, Mary E. 10. Finnis, 8.

Emma Mayhew, age, 43. (Marys' sister) One child Bud, not listed.

Mack was a cripple, he got his hip broken in a logging accident. They devided the farm June 20, 1857. His portion was the farm now owned by Larry Cook. They sold this farm and bought the one now owned by Gene Pendley. A 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre tract was sold for taxes and bought by my uncle Charley for \$ 300. I now own it and it is known, "The Mary Knight field" Mack died Apr. 1, 1884 and is buried at Simmons Chaple cemetary. Mary is by his side.

Mary Ann Mayhew Knight

Mary Ann was born, Nov. 2, 1833. She was a widow for 29 years. When she married, they moved to a log house about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the back of where I now live. She was a noted seamstress of her time. She sewed with a sewing board across her lap. She tailored mens' suits. In later life she had one of the first sewing machines. Now owned by Radney, her grandson.

During the Civil war the Rebel soldiers came to her house and she hid her wing under the house by taking up a floor plank. This plank was still there when the house was moved by Jerrel Beliles in Nov. 1978. A family that lived there when I was small let the dog in by it.

Aunt Mary was known as a nice clean housekeeper. This log house was remodeled by them. The log room was sealed with yellow popular plank and sealed in stairway. Two rooms were built on the back with these plank and it was weatherboarded with them. A well was dug in the yard by the girl, Lucy and her brother.

Aunt Mary, in later life lived with a retarded sister, known as aunt Emily.

she gave Aunt Mary trouble. A story was told me that Emily would sleep during the day when aunt Mary was out working, then at night she couldn't sleep so would keep aunt Mary awake. She would scratch on the wall and say, "rats". Aunt Mary got enough so, she poured water on her and said, "I'll drown them rats". That was the end of rats.

When Aunt Mary became old and disabled to work, she was used to she would carry a chair to the garden and take a knife and till around the hills of vegetables. She told a neighbor, when she knew she was going to die, she wished she could put every thing she owned in a capsule and swallow it so she could take it with her, so there would be no fuss after she was gone.

Walter Arendell, a grandson said, Mary came with her family by covered wagon from Va. maybe through N.C. to Butler Co. Ky. The Mayhew records say she was born in Va. Her father was William Mayhew, born May, 29, 1793. Married to Lucy Wells, born May 2, 1798. Died July 17, 1887. Both are buried at Old Bethel cemetery in Butler. They came to Butler, Co. in 1843.

The Children of Radney Mack and Mary Ann

Martha E. married Quin Fleming, they had two children, Fred and Charley. Charley married Maud Brown, they had two children, Paul and Charles Jr. Fred married Stella Lee, they had one, Harold Gordon.

Benjamin Sherman married Mattie Allen, they had, Novella married Barrow. Essie, married Estil Nole he died, then Oscar Craig. No children. Bunnie married Nick McPherson, one boy, James William. Mary Ella, married Julian W. Allen. They had Velma and Vivian, no children. Radney, married Hallie Baker. They had five children, Audrey, Floyd, Boyce, Eloise, and Wendell.

Finnis, married Eric Campfield, they had Cecil, Luther, Lenord, Dea, and Mary. Eric died and he married, Mammie Dwyer, they had Rachel Finnis, Ruth, Pearl, Mayme and Martha.

A boy called Bud I have no record, he lived at Powderly, Ky. Radney Mack signed his deed with an X. I don't understand, by the will his father left he was supposed to be schooled. There must be a good reason.

Laura married James Arendell, they had Walter, Hazel, and Evvie. Walter married, Carrie Buchannon, no children. Evvie married, Alvis Young. Hazel married Gabriel Wood. They had seven children: Grace, Lucille, Ruth, Velma, Clarence, Carl, and James. Evvie had two children, Coleen and Bill.

Lucy, married Lannie Turner, they had, Mary F. married Elsworth Williams, four children, Raymond, Robert, Estelle, and Ester that died young.

Harry, married-----. Then Elsie Dobbs, they had three children, Asber,----- and Albert. Lillian married French Mefford, 4 children. Elizabeth, married Offis Ewing, 2 children. Vera, married Tenry Lewis, Vona to-----Alexander. no children either. Weaver, married Verda Bevil, 2 children, Kenneth, and T.W. Thedford, killed World war I.

John Franklin (Jack) Knight

John Franklin, known as John F. or Jack, was born at Rock Spring, Ky. Sept. 25, 1819. He was the second child of Radney and Mary (Polly) Simmons. He died Feb. 3, 1886. The epitaph is,

Not lost blest thought, but gone before

Where we shall meet to part no more.

He is buried at Simmons Chaple cemetery, he was a charter member of Rock Spring Baptist church and probably a charter member of Simmons Chaple United Methodist church. Their records were lost at Rochester, I am told by Mrs. Mae Allen Ramsey.

John's father, Radney bought land in Butler Co. at Rock Spring in 1815. He lived on that farm until he moved to Muhlenberg Co. in 1855

Russelville Ky. Groom Book 2, Page 11

John Knight to Polly Baugh, 7mo 1842 no return.

Polly's name was, Mary Annie, she was later called, Pop and aunt Pop.

In a record I found was, children of Elizabeth Baugh, - Polly Baugh, born Aug. 25, 1819

Polly lived several years after Jack died. I have no record of how long, she has no tombstone, but is buried at Simmons Chaple beside him. After he died she and a grand-daughter, Ovelia Knight, lived in a two room log house on the hill above where I now live. *

John F. and Radney Mack, were brothers and known as, "Jack and Mack".

John inherited a portion of his fathers' Butler Co. farm according to the will of 1849. I found no record of it I guess he sold it.

Jack and Mack came to the Skilesville, area of Muhlenberg Co. June, 15, 1855. They bought 421 acres of land on Green River from Ephraim M. Brank. They paid him \$ 1200. receipt being acknowledged by the deed recorded in Muhlenberg court house, deed book 17, page 589. Dated June 25, 1855 and signed by clerk, J. H. Reno.

This being the same land conveyed by William Luce to Richard Keen, and by the Muhlenberg Co. sheriff to said Brank. A one third interest was to Mack and two thirds to John, undivided. They divided it June 20, 1857.

Jack and Polly, had three children, James H. H., Presley M. and John F. and his brother Mack when they moved from Butler, Co. to Muhlenberg to stay a lifetime. They moved to a log house that sat on a small hill to the back of where J. P. Burden's now sets. He is a great-great grandson. The place can be found by the broken dishes and brick. A brick kiln was there by. About 1940 I found a one-half dollar there made in 1818.

They moved from here across the road on a hill, near a rock quarrie, where rock was dug for chimneys. The first house logs were moved to build a barn where Estil Knight, (a great grandson) now lives. It still is there. The second house they lived in during the civil war. It later burned. The third log house is where Polly died. It rotted and fell down.

They built a log house on the hill behind where my house now stands. This house faced the southeast, and had one large log room with a door on the southeast side facing a road that went to Macks' house and on to the bluff on Green River. The log room had a fire place for wood on the north side made of rock and brick. Pieces of rock and brick are still there, and two oak trees at each corner. On the west side was a window with a wooden shutter. Log houses in Ky. didn't have glass windows until 1789 and they hadn't come this far west yet. At the west corner they dug a cistern and walled it with rocks. My Dad carried rocks and filled it after the house got old. There was a boxed room on the north-east side for a kitchen.

After the house was old my Dad cut a wide door in the front for his sheep to sleep in and store a log wagon. It fell down in the 1920's. He took the logs and built a barn for his sister, Nan Cook. It is now gone after 1940.

Modell Mills Muhlenberg, Co.

The microfilm census of July, 1860, also known as Skilesville.
John F. Knight, age 37, farmer, value of real estate \$1200. Personal property, \$1000.
Mary, age 37, domestic
James H. farmer. 17, farmer. Preston M. 14, John F. 11, Samuel F. 9, George S. 8.

Greenville District, 3. July 1st. 1870

John F. age 50, farmer, value of real estate, \$4000. Personal, \$1000. Born in Ky.
Mary, 51 keeping house
John 22, farmer. Samuel, 20, farmer. George, 18 at home. William 6, at home.
Marrah K. 19, without occupation
Margaret J. 14, without occupation
These girls must have been Johns' neices, but which brother I have no record.
James H. or Preston Martin are not in this census. They were living in the area too.

Census of 1880

John F. 59, farmer, born in Ky. His father in Ga. Mother in Ky.
This is a mistake. Someone turned it in wrong.
Mary, 60, wife born in Ky. father in Va., mother, Nc.
William Y. 16, earmer, single
Margaret Johnson 20, neace, single, keeping house.
This must be the Margaret J. 14 who was living with them in 1870. She is in the picture of George Knights' family and she was a neace of his.
Also listed is Ovelia, 6 a grand-daughter.
This is a daughter of George Knight. Her mother had died.
The census lists John F. sick the day the census enumerator was there with a spinal ailment. I suppose this was arthritis.
He lived 6yrs. after this, but I have no record of what he died with.
His son, Jim Henry thought his father left some money somewhere when he died, but at this writing it has never been found. He thought it was buried somewhere. My Dad found some coins once in the bottoms where he was working and they dug up around there but found nothing. He surly didn't put it in the bottom.

Muhlenberg Co. Court Records From 1851 to 1858

A motion of John F. Knight, surveyor of that part of the road leading from Greenville to Skilesville. That lays between Hays forks Skilesville, commence at the mouth of Daniels Run, with Daniels to R.H. Simmons, who is from there to Z. Brooks, whose now included from there to Mud River at Buckles Mill. Down Mud River to the mouth of.

Thense down Green River to the mouth of Daniels Run to include all the lands in said bounds of said road in good repair as the law directs.

(This road would cross the old bridge route on the Bridge Lake road the piers of this bridge are still there).

John F. Knight ordered to be appointed surveyor of road from J. Campfields' to Skilesville or common road beginning at the mouth of Mud River, then at the old Skilesville road to Dan Revo. Thense to R. H. Simmons, to include him, thense to Harvy Taylor, to include him thense, up the ---to the beginning.

John F. was a business man and a hard worker, he farmed with the help of the 6 boys and worked timber. Also had a blacksmith shop where they made the tools they worked with and taught the boys the trade too. I still have some of the tools made at this shop. The old shop was logs and stood until the early 1940s'.

Mary Ann (polly) was a worker too, women then had to work if they eat. Just raising 6 boys was a big job. The clothes were made in the home that they wore. Only the strong women survived the hard work. She also did the business after he died. She raised the grand daughter, Ovelia Knight Coin.

John F. and Marys' children

I will start at the youngest to the oldest so I can end at my Grand father.

William Yomen Knight

He signed his name W.Y. Knight, but was called Bill. He was the youngest of the 6 boys born, and must have been his mothers' favorite child. She gave him more of the land his father left than the others.

The 1870 census list him 6yrs. and the June 1880 is 16 so we can say he was born in 1864. The 1900 census says William born Dec. 1864, Married 12 yrs. So he was married in 1888.

Annie his wife was born Apr. 1867, age 33. She was born in Ind. Her father in England, and her mother in Ky.

Their son William born June 20, 1890, age 10.

Richard E. (Edd) " July 1892, " 7.

Elmer " June, 1894 " 5.

Josephine, " Oct. 1896 " 3.

Zelmer R. (Reen) " Oct. 1898 " 1.

Bills' wife was Ann Cottrell. Ann had a girl named Pearl, she died young with measels. She also had twins that died and she didn't live long after.

He married Lucy Chapman, she never had children.

Bill was a good looking young man, with blue eyes and black hair. He never was very fond of working. As a young boy he was always sick, or thought he was.

Worlds First Placebo ?

Bills' father would send for Charley and Willie, (my Dad) to go to Rochester to

get medicine for him, or get the Doctor.

They got tired of walking to get pills so they just made him some. The Dr. rolled their own pills then. So they slipped out some flour and wet on it and rolled Bill some pills. They said it did him as much good as what the Dr. made. He was 10yrs. older than Charley so I don't think he ever knew or he could have whipped both of them.

Bill made a blacksmith of himself and he was a good one when he wanted to work. He had a special recipe to weld with, he beat up glass and welded it in and it would never break.

His daughter in law said, Will his boy got got him a job at Drakesboro mines and he got fired for missing work. She said when he got older his eyes got bad (maybe cataracts) and he would put kerosene in them and make Lucy, his wife put it in for him. From other reports he became very senile.

He died in the 1930's, no one has a date I know of. He is buried at Ennis, Methodist church cemetery and Lucy is buried by him. They don't have a marker so I don't know where Ann is buried.

Bill and Ann Knights' children

The oldest son, Will married, Ethel Lee Douglas, she was the daughter of Jim Douglas and Fanny Knight. They came from Robison Co. Tenn.

To this union was born 13 children, Five are dead,.

The second son, Richard Edward was born July 1892. He married Maggie Dobbs. She was the daughter of Sherman and Mahenry Cox. To them was born 22 children.

The third child was Josephine, she was born Oct. 1896. She married Finnis Chapman, the brother of her step mother. They had 6 children.

The youngest child was Zelmer Reese. She married John Gore Sr. in the 1920's they never had children. She is now living in a nursing home I'm told.

Uncle Bill as I knew him helped my Dad build the house I now live in. It was built in 1923 and 24. My Dad hauled the lumber and brick from Central City in a wagon. He would leave early in the morning and get back after dark at night. He would leave Uncle Bill and Finnis Chopman to work while he was gone.

One day they were to put on weather boarding while he was gone. When he got back they had sealed the front of the house with no windows or door. Another day he left them to build the chimney he had started, and they worked all day and never tied the brick and that night it fell down. So he stayed with them when they worked from then on.

It seems like no one thought much of Uncle Bill. But as a child of about 5 yrs. I dearly loved him. My Dad went to his mill to have meal ground. This mill was part of his blacksmith shop at Ennis. I loved to go to mill at Uncle Bills.

He had to mortgage this mill to Dave Campfield. Dave died and the heirs took the mill. So poor Uncle Bill had his troubles down here too. I sure hope he is gone to a better place.

Greenville Marriage Book 26

William Y. Knight 41, second marriage, Blacksmith, father and mother born in Logan Co. Apr. 9, 1905, to Lucy Chatman 25, born in Logan Co. Father, John Chatman, born in Va.

George Libbie Knight

George was the 5th son of John F. and Mary Ann Baugh Knight. He was born in Butler Co. near Rock Spring, in August, 1852. He is listed in the census of 1860 as 8 yrs. In the 1870, as 18 yrs and still at home.

The marriage Book at Greenville lists, George L. Knight, to Lora E. Brooks. (E, is for Ellon) Married at Zack Brooks, Sept. 28, 1871 in the presence of Thos. Dobbs, J. M. Hays, and James Knight. Signed by M. B. Foster, minister.

They had one child, Ovelia Ann born, 1874. Ellon died when she was a baby. Ovelias' grandmother, Mary Knight took her at the funeral and raised her.

George L. Knight, marriage bond with J. S. Unsell, Oct. 15, 1877, age 25, second marriage, farmer, born, Butler Co. To Ann Elvira Green, born Muhl. Co. Age, 15. Father and mother born Logan Co. Marriage certificate, Book 9. Married at William Green in Muhl. Co. in presence of J. G. Unsell and Wm. Green.

In 1880 Census, George was 28, a farmer. Ann Elvira, 18, born in Ky. Her father and mother in Tenn. They had one son, Adolphus, 1 yr.

The 1890 census burned in Kansas. The 1900 cen. George 48. No wife listed so she had died.

Children listed, Adolphus, 21, born June, 1879. Marvin H. 15, b, July, 1884. Heslin Idella, age 10, b, 1889. Mattie, 6, b, Jan. 1894. Nettie F. b, Mar. 1892. Ella isn't listed.

Georges' Children

Ovelia, married Joseph Coin. They lived near Riverside, and had 2 children, Andy, born 1896. Elmer, 1898. Millard, Arthur, b, 1900. All dead. Luther b, 1907. Lettie, 1902. Married Joe Dobbs. Jodie, married Mable Penrod, 6 children. Evvie was married two times, the first was Virgil Lovel, 3 children.

Adolphus, married Gertrude Knight, the daughter of Danuel Knight of Rock Spring. They had 3 children: Toodie, married Elvin Downing. Buck, Sam, Sylvester, Clarence, Carlene, and Virginia.

Marvin married Pearl Jenkins, They had 11 children: Boyd, William, Ray, Edith, John, Geneva, ---

Ella married Alvin English: 3 children. Mattie married John Cox, 2 children; one died young, and James.

Nettie married Sandy Wood, 2 children, Paul and Ann.

John (Jack) died with walking typhoid fever as a teenager.

Idella married Theron Dorris, 9 children; Buck, Louise, ---

As a child I remember uncle George as a kind old man that came to see my grandfather. He had cataracts on his eyes, a quack doctor operated on his eyes and he went blind. He Died at Dawson Springs at Illas. They brought him back to Simmons Chaple and buried him by the two wives and near his Dad. Ellon is by her family, the Brooks, and Ann between them. I am told Charley Brooks is at uncle George's head where Edd Knight is now buried. They dug up a shoe heel when Edds' grave was dug. Charley died drunk and he was buried as found with his boots on.

Samuel Frances Knight

Samuel was known as Som. In the 1850 census he was 1 yr. So that would make him born in 1849. They were living in Butler Co. on a portion of his Grand-fathers' farm. this was willed to his father later.

Of all the boys of John F. and Mary Knight he was the most colorful character.

The Muhlenberg Co. census of 1870 lists him 20 yrs. and still at home farming.

The Marriage Book of Muhlenberg Co. No. 7.

Marriage Bond of \$ 100. between R.M. Williams and Samuel F. Knight and Marah (misspelled) Maria C. Baker. Dec. II, 1869 Signed S.F. Knight and R.M. Williams. Thos. Bruce, clerk.

Age of groom 20, first marriage. Farmer, born in Butler Co.

Age of bride 19, born in Muhlenberg. Brides father and mother born in Muhlenberg. To be married Dec. 12, 1869.

Maria Cathrine Baker Knight

Maria was known as Queen. She was the daughter of Israel Jacob Studebaker, which was shortened to Baker.

The Studebakers' were known as "Pennsylvania Black Dutch". These pioneers came down the Ohio river by flatboat and up the Green river to settle in Muhlenberg Co. near Riverside, on Green river. They are buried on the old farm.

From the records Queen would have been born in 1850.

The Muhlenberg Co. tax list of 1800, list Jacob Studebaker. Moved to Miami river valley, (this is in Ohio) from Lancaster, Pa. An early settler of Muhlenberg Co.

Queens' mother was Elizabeth Myres.

The 1810 census of Muhlenberg lists,

Jacob Studebaker, 1 male 2 females, 4 females in 10 to 16 age group.

The 1840 census has, Jacob S. Baker, (S instead of Stude)

One male, 70 and under 80

One female 60 under 70 yrs. This must be the same man that came from Penn.

Then in 1840 census is Israel J. Baker, one male (20 under 30) age group. This must be a son. Two females under 5 yrs. One female under 30 yrs.

This must be Queens' father and mother. she wasn't born until 1850. So this will work for her marriage says her father was born in Ky.

The next census of 1880 lists Samuel Knight, age 31, Farmer.

Maria, 28, born in Ky. keeping house.

John Ellington, 6 yrs. Samuel, 4, Ida, 3, Ofy I, and Dallas, 4 months.

The 1900 census lists Samuel Knight, born in Ky. April 1849. Age 51.

Maria C. born May, 1851. Married 30 yrs. Mother of 12 children, 10 living.

John O. born Aug. 1872 age 27, single

Offie C. " Oct. 1878 " 21 "

Dallas Q. " Jan. 1880 " 20 "

Ward S. " Apr. 1884 " 16 "

Ida E. " Jan. 1886 " 14 "

Ligah " July 1889 " 10 "

Winnie " July 1891 " 8 "

Samuel Knight born Apr. 1875 in Texas

Bell, " Mar. 1878, married 1 yr. 1 child, Hazel, born Nov. 1899 age 6, No

At this time Sam Sr. and his son Sam, (known as Little Sam) were living on the old Baker farm at Riverside. Sam lived in the old Chatter Box school house.

Texas Bound

In 1849 the gold rush started to California, with this came the great migration to the west. Dreams of getting rich were accomplished for some but only hardships for others. Some left troubles behind to only find greater ones on down the road.

On Mar. 24, 1874 Samuel and his wife, Maria sold to J. H. Kirtley for \$525. cash an undivided interest in 50 acres more or less, one eighth int. of Maria Knight and one eighth int. purchased by S. F. Knight of Jacob Baker.

In April of 1874 they with Marias' sister, Minerva Jane who married Duff Green Simmons, a cousin of Sam, and their families left Ky. for Kansas.

They traveled by covered wagon. They crossed the Ohio river at Owensboro on flatboats and went through Ill. Ind. and up into Kansas, then down through Okla. Territory to Texas. Somewhere along the way they joined a wagon train. They went through Indian territory that wasn't always friendly to white settlers.

This trip took over 6 months but they stopped along the way. They arrived in a place near where is now Weatherford Tex. Comanche Indians were still in this area. They stayed here about one year. they had one child born there, He was Born in April of 1875. So they probably left thereafter harvest that fall.

Duff Green and Minerva stayed there.

They bought back part of the Baker farm from Marias' brother, John Baker. They stayed there until after 1880 census.

The Land Rush to Oklahoma started in the 1880s' when the state was opened for settlement. More than 20,000 homesteaders came in as the territory was opened. Cattlemen came from Texas, farmers from Kansas, loggers from Ark. and others from the east to stake claims.

Samuel F. had fallen in love with Okla. as he passed through to Texas, so I suppose he had a desire to go back. He would tell everyone, "There is honey Ponds and sugar trees in Okla."

Recorded in Greenville Deed Book

Samuel Knight and wife sold to J. F. Hays and M. F. Hays for \$25.00 along a division of J. F. Knight and conveyed to John F. by Jessie H. Reno and Joseph Rickets. 45 Acres, Oct. 10, 1891.

Samuel Knight and wife sold 170 acres to Allen Smalley, 1st tract. Second tract on Rochester to South Carrollton road, joining Hunts, military land and Paradise to Skilesville road.

To Guy P. Long for mining $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1% per bushel, payable every month. To pay \$150.00 per year not mining, May 28, 1894.

I don't find a record it was ever mined.

Heading for Oklahoma

From this record we can suppose he left for Okla. after 1894. Bud Knight told me before he left he cut logs off the farm and floated them down Green river to the Ohio to the Mississippi to the Gulf and up another river and built a house at Jay Buckle Springs Okla. Somewhere along the way he had the logs sawed into lumber. The house had 4 rooms. He later sold it to Tom Smith. It still stands there.

I have no record of how long they stayed in Okla. They were back for the 1900 census, living back at the Baker farm. He bought back part of this farm twice. He was living on it when Maria died Mar. 3, 1910. And she is buried there. We couldn't find a marker in 1977.

Samuel F. married Bennie Hunly, from Ohio Co. probably before 1920. He sold the farm again to Wickliffe Coal Co. and left again for Okla. The back water was up and they spent the night before they left at Will Knights' and slept with the dog. Aunt Benny was a dog lover and he went along with this. About this time they spent the night at our house and slept with the dog too. This was an old log room used for a kitchen. When my mother went to the kitchen to cook breakfast the dog crawled out of bed and tried to bite her.

My mother didn't think much of dogs in the house and she certainly didn't appreciate the bedroom scene.

They came back from Okla. and bought a small place next door to his son, Ted. This was a log cabin one room with a kitchen boxed on the side. This was near Ennis on the Browder Rochester road. This was probably the early 1920's.

Bennie died while they were here. She got so big and sick he couldn't take care of her himself so they went to his sons' house. He was known as Little Sam, he lived near Riverside in Chatterbox school house. They took her back to Ohio Co. and buried her at Hopewell cemetery. She had heart dropsy.

In the late 1920s' once more he sold his place to his son Ted and rented a little house from Parkers at Ennis and lived there by himself a while.

The desire to travel hit him again for Okla. He bought a horse from Oscar Dobbs to ride and once more and the last time he left Ky. for Okla. The horse's name was Jake, he rode Jake to Bellville, Ark. His son Arlis lived there. He left Jake there and got a horse and buggy to drive on to Reed, Okla. where one of his children lived.

There he married an Indian woman, no one in the family knew her name. She sold cosmetics. He started selling patent medicine and called himself Dr. S.F. Knight.

He died in 1931 at age 81, and is buried at Reed Okla. It appears from my sources of information that he went off with the Indians and none of his children knew much about him in his last years. So peace and may you have traveled the right road Uncle Sam from here to the highway of Holiness.

My Dad said on one of Uncle Sam's trips back here from Okla. he drove horses to a bodock wagon. They had a lot of Bodock trees there and he had a wagon made of them. This is very strong wood that lasts long.

We call these trees Hedge Oranges in Ky. My Dad made single trees of them. The wood is yellow and hard.

Samuel F. and Maria C.s' children

I can't list children in order of birth as some died and I don't have dates on all.

Samuel Frances Jr. was known as ,Little Sam , He was born in Texas, Apr. 1875 near Weatherford, in Parker Co. He married Bell Dalton in Ky. in 1899.

She was born in March, 1875. Their children were , Hazel, Born Nov. 1899. who now lives in Mexico. Fredic, and Mable , no dates.

John O. was born Aug. 1872, he married Barbara Kipling from Paradise Ky. in 1896. They had one son, Kipling, who now lives at Dunmore, Ky. John got drowned as a young man, while walking on frozen backwater between Paradise and Riverside. His body wasn't found until the water went down and his body was partly eaten by animals. Ellington, was 6yrs. in 1880. He died with typhoid fever and is buried in the Baker cemetery. He has no tombstone but, is buried by his mother at the feet of his grandfather.

Dallas Israel, "Dal", born Jan. II, 1880 Married Mernie Baker in 1902. She was born, Feb. 9, 1884. Died Apr. 24, 1964. Her father was Robert Baker. Her mother was Sarah Dobbs. Dal died at Reed Okla. in 1942. They had 5 children.

Faye , born, Dec. 24, 1906. Died Apr. 21, 1964. Married Glen Wilson.

Kate, born, Apr. 22, 1911. Married Andy Parker in 1929.

Joe, married C. E. Jones.

Baker, born, Dec. 13, 1905, married Virgie Mc Donald.

John, married Ruby Gollop.

Arlas A. married Mollie Benham in 1909. He was born in Ky. They had 7 children.

Robert Arthur, born Feb. II, 1911, grew up in Calif. Died in Vancouver , Wash. John, Carmen, married a Lee. Vivian, married a Mullers. May, married a Dodd. Mildred, married Gealgis in Wyo. Lucille married a Smith in Ga.

Elija, born July, 20, 1889 in Ky. Married Ida Jackson, Sept 19, 1911 at Reed Okla. She was born Jan. 9, 1893 at Marville, Ala. and died June 9, 1971 in Okla. They had 2 children, Louis Roscoe, born June 21, 1912. Married Dixie Moore, May 1934. She died Oct. 12, 1966. Marie , born Sept, 7, 1913. Married R. L. Mc Laughlyn, she died Okla. City.

Ida Mary, born Jan. I, 1886. She married John Sullivan , in Ky. They had 4 children. James , married Mable Benton. Blonnie , married Walter (Jack) Jernigan. 6 children. Scottie, married Irene Brown Dortch. No children. Cathrine, , married Clarence Ragland, and Zollie Smith. By Zollie she had children.

Winnie Josephine, (Josie) married Horton Baker, they had 7 children. Bulah, Alda , Jude, John, Jackie, and Dorothy.

Offie Cado (Oaf) married Sue Dobbs in 1904. They had 8 children. Marie, married Lloyd Fleming, killed in tornado. Lelia, married Melvin Mallory, living at Greenville. Samuel, Joe, Richard, Dallas, Hallie, and Lewis.

John Freeman Knight

John Freeman was the third son of John Franklin and Mary Ann Paugh Knight. He was born in Butler, Co. near Rock Spring church on a farm his grandfather owned, Feb. 5, 1848. He was listed in the 1870 census as 22 yrs. and still at home in Muhlenberg, Co. farming. He wasn't listed in the 1880 census. He had probably moved to Ohio, Co. then.

John F. married Cordia Hawker Roach, born, Feb. 11, 1844 died, 6/5/1900. She had 2 children by a former marriage. She and John had 3 children, a boy that died young, John Freeman Jr. and Verdie.

John F. Jr. was born, Feb. 2, 1878. He married, Mary Ellon Davenport, Oct. 1900. She was born, Dec. 27, 1880. They had 3 children,

The first child was, Rachel Erdene, born 5/26/1902. She married Hamilton Mudd, the 5/1920. They had 2 children, John Willie and Hamilton. Erdene was married again to George Willes. No children to them. She died, 8/20/1983.

The second child was, Cordie Daphene, born 10/22/06. She married Glen Woosley, of Caneyville, Ky. 10/22/1920. She had 2 children, Mary, born 10/1/1920 and married Jay Walter De Vore. They had 4 children. Daphene's other child was Marie, born 7/30/1923. married, Wilbur E. Brumer. They had 2 children, Douglas E. and Mark A.

The third child was Mary Lucille, born 7/30/1916. She married Fred Leroy Harrington of Indianapolis, Ind. 3/29/1937. They had a son, Marvin Leeroy, born 11/6/1939. He married June E. Pitts of Winston Salem, N.C. They had 4 children, Creighton Leroy, born, 9/30/1966. Tamara Lynn, born 12/12/1968, Brian Edward, born 6/3/1970. Nicole Michelle, born, 11/2/1975

Mary Ellon died Oct. 4, 1920. John F. Jr. married Dora Williams Aug. 1921. She was born, 3/4/1884. They had 1 boy, John McKinney born, 5/18/1926. He married Elvira Cummings of Breckenridge, Co. 6/18/1949. They had 3 children, Twin girls, born 11/5/1950. Linda Lou and Brenda Sue. A son, Richard McKinney, born 1/10/1955. John and Elvira live on the farm he neired from his father on the road from Beaverdam to Rochester ferry.

John F. Sr. died 3/30/1923. He is buried at Cool Spring cemetary in Ohio, Co by Cordia.

John F. Sr. and Cordia's daughter, Verdie was born 1880. She married Bud Shultz. They had 3 children, Marlin, Glennie and Freeman. They lived near Beaver Dam, Ky. Cordie died June 5, 1900.

John F. Jr. died Jan. 19, 1959. He and his two wives are buried at Cool Spring

John F. Jr. and Mary Ellon built a small house on his father's farm. They moved to the Rev. Gordon farm and bought it in the spring of 1906 with a \$60. down payment. It is still owned by John McKinney Knight.

Presley Martin Knight

Presley Martin was known as "Mart", he was the second son born to John F. and Mary Baugh Knight. He was born in Butler Co. on his grandfathers' farm near Rock Spring, Sept. 25, 1845. When he was age ten the family moved to Muhlenberg Co. to the farm where I now live. There he grew up.

In the Marriage Book is listed,
P.M. Knight 29, farmer, to Cynthia A. Rickets at Samuel A. Rickets, Sept. 24, 1874. In the presence of E. Unsell, Jas. Unsell, signed by Jas. A. Maresfred.
Cynthia A. age 28, born in Muhlenberg Co. Father in N.C. Mother in Muhlenberg.

Cynthia Ann Rickets Knight

Cynthia was the daughter of Limuel A. Rickets. He was Born Apr. 13, 1813. and died Oct. 17, 1897.

Her mother was Martha (Patsy) Unsell, born, July 8, 1810. Died Dec. 14, 1894. Both are buried at Simmons Chaple cemetery.

In the deed books at Greenville Lem A. Rickets owned 107 acres of land on Clifty creek. He also bought 50 acres on Pond creek from Hiram Unsell. He owned other land too.

Martha, Cynthia, and A. Rickets bought from S.A. Jackson, 23 acres on Daniels Run. May 14, 1870. Written July 9, 1867 for \$200. \$157. cash in hand. Cynthia deeded other land to her four sons.

She died at the home of her son Fred who was living at new Knightsberg. The house had two rooms across the front and a narrow hall between them. She died in one of the rooms and the hall was too narrow to make the turn so they had to take out a window to get the casket out. She died in June - 1921

The dates on her tombstone don't come out right.

In the Paradise census of 1880, Mart was listed as 35 yrs. a farmer. Cynthia, age 33. Presley H. (Harlin) age 5. Carlos B. 2, and Perry W. (Washington) 9mo. They were living next door to Radney Mack Knight who was Mart's uncle. So this was probably later known as Knightsberg.

Mart was a Preacher if he was ordained I have no record. He was a Baptist and probably a General Baptist. He could have belonged to the old Methodist church at Simmons Chaple too. He isn't listed as a member of Union Chaple church.

My father told the story of Uncle Mart preaching in a church one hot day and he took his handkerchief out of his pocket to wipe sweat, and when the handkerchief came out so did a deck of cards and scattered over the floor. He looked down and saw them and said, "some of them burned boys did that". He picked them up put them back in his pocket and went on preaching.

This was laid to Carlos and Harlan's account.

Another story was told on him. It seems that he was walking down the road and mother nature called, so he sat down by the roadside. While sitting there two women came walking down the same road. When he saw he had a bad situation to cope with he just politely tipped his hat and said, "Good morning ladies". And sat there. I suppose he had a way of handling bad situations.

Mart and Cynthia owned a farm in the Riverside community on the Paradise road. They lived there part of their life. It has been stripped for coal now.

He died at the home of his son, Perry at old Knightsberg, at the age of 67, Nov. 21, 1912. He is buried at Simmons Chaple beside his wife.

Presley Martin and Cynthia Knights' Children

Presley Harlan was born in 1875. He married Ann Tunsil from Paradise community. They had four children, Edward, Ernest, Mary, and Charles. The family moved to Michigan and stayed. Harlan and Charles are buried at Grand Rapids.

Carlos Baren was the second son, born in 1878. He married Stella Cottrel. The daughter of James Cottrel.

Carlos was a farmer and coal miner. He lived on the Paradise road when he died. This has been stripped now. They had ten children, Walter, Carrie, Hubert, Nellie, Theodore, Bulah, Leamon, Louise, Carlos B. and Herman L.

Perry Washington was the third son. He was born Sept. 23, 1879. He married Mourine Dobbs. She was the daughter of Sherman and Mahenry Cox Dobbs. She was born June 2, 1893, and died July, 30, 1962. Perry was drowned in Green River Aug. 19, 1937.

They had ten children, Esther, James, Sherman, Chester Brown, Leonard Franklin, Lois, Harold Lee, Mildred, and Betty, one died a boy.

Knightsburg

Perry started a store in what we now call the old mill building, and is owned by Pauline Robinson and has been moved back off the road where it was built. He carried a paper for enough signers to get a postoffice. When it was established I have no record. In the history of Muhlenberg Co. it is listed in 1912 as a postoffice. I have letters stamped there from 1912 to 1921. Perry built a house beside the postoffice. He sold out to T. B. Wilson in 1913. He built another two story building across the road and moved the store and postoffice there. He had deeded this to the I. O. O. F. 387 Ennis Trust, in 1911. So I guess he rented it until he built another store and house larger on up the road about one fourth mile.

New Knightsburg

This store was a large two story building with a store on the ground floor and a porch across the front. The postoffice was on the first floor. A large auditorium on the top floor. I attended a Punch and Judy show there as a small child. There was a outside stairway to the top floor. this building sat where Carl Pendley now has a garden.

Perry had a good business here. He lost it by messing around with booze. He sold it to his brother Fred.

The same thing happened to Fred, the law caught him and he made a quick sale to my Dad. They sold it to C. H. Brown in 1922. He got in a mess too and it burned about 1923 or 24. That ended Knightsburg. The same house still is there it has been remodeled.

In the history of Muhlenberg Co. it states that since 1907 people of this area get mail at Knightsburg. I don't know if it was there that early or not.

Fredric Martin Knight

Fred was the younger son of Presley Martin and Cynthia Ann Rickets Knight. He was born Oct. 9, 1884, and died Apr. 23, 1964.

Fred married Martha Pearl Welburn. She was the daughter of Patric Henry Welburn, he was born Sept. 19, 1858. His wife was Mary Susan Arnold, born Nov. 8, 1856. Her father was James Arnold, and her mother was Martha Unsell. They are buried at Riverside cemetery.

Martha Pearl was born Sept. 19, 1887. She was known as Pearl.

To Fred and Pearl were born seven children, Cynthia Edna was born Sept. 8, 1907. She married Aubrey Robinson.

Roy Franklin was born July 23, 1909, and died June 6, 1931.

Jessie Evelyn, born Dec. 14, 1913, and married Carrol Stum.

Etta Louise, born Nov. 17, 1915. She married Floyd Baggerly, and died from goiter surgery Apr. 11, 1944.

Newman Welburn (Bill) born, Sept. 5, 1918.

Foster Fredrick, (Steve) born Feb. 20, 1920

Mary Opal, born Oct. 30, 1911. She married Cecil Brown.

Fred was a farmer and merchant. He run Knightsberg, store and postoffice. He moved from there to Ohio Co. and bought a farm where he lived for several years. He sold to the coal co. and came back to Muhlenberg Co. and bought part of his fathers farm and run a store there. It is now stripped for coal. Pearl died there. They are buried at Pond Run cemetery in Ohio, co.



James Henry Harrison Knight's Family. Made in May 1890 or 1891.
Front row, L to R: Richard Harry, d. 1942; Mattie Ellon, d. 1893; Isabell, d. 1918;
Mary Luro, d. 1895. Back row, L to R: Nancy Isabell, d. 1946; Margaret Annie, d.
1914; James William, d. 1964; Charles French, d. 1913.

James Henry Harrison Knight

Jim Henry was the first child of John F. and Mary. He was born, Dec. 28, 1843 in Butler Co. on his grandfathers' farm near Rock Spring. This portion was willed to his father later. He is listed in Butler Co. census of 1850 as 7 yrs old.

The family moved to Muhlenberg Co. when he was 12 yrs old. He spent the rest of his life here on the farm I now live on. As he was the oldest child it fell his lot to help make the living for the family. They farmed, blacksmithed, and coal mined. Later he added selling Bibles and was magistrate for a while. The court for some crimes was held by the district magistrate at his home at this time.

In the Marriage book 6 at Greenville list James H. Knight age 23, farmer Dec. 6, 1866, Born Butler Co. father, born Butler, mother born in Logan Co.

To Isabella Simmons age 24, born in Logan Co. Father in N.C. Mother in Muhlenberg Co. The old family Bible lists them married at Richard H. Simmons' her fathers' on the same day the licenses was issued. Her full name was Nancy Isabella.

In Book I, page 233 No. 2019

This is to certify that on Dec. 6, 1866 the rites of marriage were legally solemnized by me between James H. Knight and Isabella Simmons at R. Simmons' in Muhlenberg Co. in the presence of W. Y. Grable, R. Simmons and others, S. C. Peters, Minister.

Nancy Isabella was named for her mother, Nancy Luce. She was called Bell in her later years as aunt Bell. It seems for some reason older people became aunt or uncle I suppose a title of respect of old age.

Bell was a working woman and also a business woman. She was a school teacher before she married. She had a certificate as a teacher. She had a spinning wheel and a flax wheel and cards to card wool and cotton. They grew the flax and cotton and sheep for wool. They raised geese for feathers to make pillows and feather beds. A straw filled mattress that was called a straw tick was made of wheat straw was placed on top of slats on a bed, then the feathers mattress was put on top of the straw one. This was a warm bed in winter, and the feather bed was taken off for summer so it would be cooler.

She made lindsy material for quilts and clothing. It was made of wool, and the thread to weave it from was made of flax and cotton, some called it woolsey.

My Dad and his older brother had shirts made of this material. Dad couldn't stand wool so his brother got his shirt. These shirts were long and sometimes called hunting shirts. They could be worn without pants.

Bell made the soap they used to wash clothes or people. Before lye was sold in stores she made the lye from wood ashes.

Before sewing machines were available she sewed by hand in her later years she had a Household sewing machine sold by Sears Roebuck.

She was also a good cook. Mildred Haden of Skilesville tells me she could make the best chicken and dumplings she ever ate. She said aunt Bell always took them to the homecoming at Simmons' Chaple and she always ate with them because she liked chicken and dumplings. They would bring a gallon bucket full.

When the Civil war started Jim Henry was still at home and single. They were northern sympathizers but you didn't tell your next door neighbors that unless you were sure which side they were on. When the Rebels camped in this area he and his father hid out to keep from getting killed.

After the war was over he joined what was called the home guard on July 31, 1865. He served one year and recieved a honorable discharge one year later.

I have no record of where he went to school, but he could read and write a good hand and he kept books on all of his business. He used a slate and a slate pencil to learn at the school he had. I have the slate and his initials are scratched on the top of it.

Jim Henry and Bell were members of Simmons Chaple Methodist church and later charter members of Union Chaple General Baptist church. They were both very active members.

To Jim Henry and Bell were born eight children that I shall name later. He made the shoes they wore most of the time. He could tan his own leather or get it from a tannery in the community run by Bells'sister's husband Wm. Grable. He had some wooden feet in different sizes that he shaped the shoes on and hand sewed them. These were still in the attic when I was small. He used thin strips of leather for strings. Shoes became cheaper to buy before my time.

In one of his record books of 1887 he bought boots for \$4.50 a pair. A gum coat for \$ 3.50 and a pair pants for \$1.50.

He also made some of their furniture. I have a table and a Picture frame made by him of walnut. They had a clothes press made of walnut by him. He made hand tools to work with. I have a hand corn planter and a plowers like tool to pull teeth with he made.

Hard work to these pioneers was like religion ,it was a necessity to live by. The children were taught this.

Jim Henry inherited a part of his fathers farm and bought out some of his brothers portions.

After he married they lived in a log cabin on the hill above where I now live. My father was born there.

This was a log room about 18by 18ft. with a wood fireplace on the northwest and a kitchen boxed on the north side. It faced the road that runs north east of my house. A cistern was on the west side.

Later they moved to another log cabin on a hill north of this one. A large hickory tree now stands in the yard where it was. This was a large house about 20 by 20ft. It had a attic for a sleeping room. It had two doors and two windows with shutters to close at night or when it was cold. It had a flue for a cook stove. A fireplace was on the north side. A porch run across one side that was later joined to a walkway connecting two more rooms .

This was built after my Dad was old enough to help with the work. He and his Dad quarried rock on the place to build the chimney. They would do this between crop time and harvest. Dad got tired of the slow and hard job so he said he would work and buy brick to build it and he did. The chimney was about half and half .J.P Burden has some of the rocks and I have the others.

My Memoirs of My Grandfather Jim Henry

Man is of a few days and filled with trouble the Bible says. My grandpa sure had his.

After all the deaths and hard times he began to loose his eyesight while still a young man. Just what caused this they never knew, but he went totally blind for a few years, and then a miracle happened and he could see again.

This lasted for a while and he grew cataracs that covered both eyes. He was blind for the rest of his life. He had what he called catarrh of the head. This made his eyes water and a runny nose to make one miserable.

I can never remember him being irritable even in his worst suffering before he died of from Prostrate gland disease which was terrible painful. He was always patient and kind to me. I was small and I'm sure that wasn't always easy.

I can remember climbing up and down on his bed when he was taking a nap. But he only had kind words and patience.

It was my job to lead him outside for exercise. This I liked to do but I was too small to be very responsible. They said one day I was leading him where Dad was building a house and led him under a piece of timber I could walk under and it caught his head and almost knocked him down. I looked up and said, "Did it hurt Grandpa"? I was about five then.

An old man by the name of Had Sherrod would come to spend the day with him. He wore a black hat and I was scared of him. They would discuss the Bible, and sometimes get angry from a difference of interpatation of the meaning. One day Uncle Had as I called him said, "Oh Jim, who made God"? My grandfather replied, "I dont know Had that was before my time".

Grandpa thought he needed a little wine for his stomach sake or medicine once in a while. My Dad would make this wine from grapes or blackberries in the summer. When he had to have a drink I had to have one too. So I guess you could say we were wine bibbers, that is what they called Jesus. When my Mama got through with the water and sugar mine wasn't very much wine.

Grandpa had a sick spell in 1921 and almost died but got better and in 1925 he took sick again and he really had a hard time then. On the morning of June 9, 1925 he called me to his bedside and took me by the hand and said, "Babe, Grandpa is just about gone this morning". About two or three oclock that evening I came in to see about him and Mama was sitting on the side of the bed crying and she told me he was gone.

This hurt me so bad that it brings tears now to write this. He would suffer so bad he would pray aloud and ask God for mercy and help. This went on all time he was sick. The silence after was almost as bad, it was so still and lonely. I would go off to myself and cry for a long time. Only God knew how I missed him.

Children of James Henry and Nancy Isabel Knight

The first child was Dely or Delie Jane. It seems that Grandmother never knew which way she wanted to spell names. Delia was born Nov. 25, 1867 and died Jan. 9, 1868.

The second child was Charles French was born Feb. 16, 1872. He was known as Charley, and as a business man of his time and got around to about everything. He was a handsome man from his pictures.

He farmed, raised and bred horses, and traded anything he owned. He was lock master at at lock no. 2 at Calhoun Ky. on Green River. There he got in trouble with a woman. She had a child she said was his, but he refused to marry her and deeded everything he owned to his brother, my Dad. He told Dad to keep it until he ask for it which he never did. He owned three farms.

He caught syphilis for which there was no cure at that time. He got appendicitis and had surgery Dec. 20, 1912 in Louisville, Ky. by Dr. Roy H. Moore. This cost \$150.00 for the surgery. This would not heal and became a running sore that later killed him. He came home to die and my Dad took care of him.

On Sept. 23, 1913 the death angel called again at the Knight home. My dad bought the casket and I have the bill for it for \$25.00. Price unbelievable.

This note I found in my Grandfathers' papers, On Oct. 1, 1909 on a Friday Charley was shot by John Brown, and Abe Fugerson accessor to the crime. They were together when the shooting was done, and both hollored at Knight after he had shot him.

This was over a tract of land that Knights owned that Brown claimed. He had planted it in corn and Charley was picking it for he said it was his. This land was later surveyed and was on Knights' property I now own it. This went into court.

Other witnesses of this were, Roscoe Robinson, John Craig, R. B. Kimmel, Elmer Cartwright, Joe McCoy and Dave Brewer.

Charlie kept a record book of all his business dealings that I still have. This was for his workers, the things he bought or sold and a soocial book for the stud services for a horse he owned.

This horse was named Billy Morgan, he was a Morgan horse. The notice he placed on him was, Billy Morgan is fifteen hands high and five yrs. old. He was to stand at stud three days at J. H. Knights' stables each week. And at the Taggart farm at Rocky Creek the other days.

Charley owned the Taggart farm, he bought it from Thos. Taggart.

The fee was \$5.00 to insure a colt. The fee due when facts are assured, timed, or mare traded.

Then he traveled with him. The first date on this was May 5, 1906 to June 18, 1911. Some of the places were Skilesville, Postoffice, Rochester, Knightsberg, Yost (now) Belton, Ennis, Paradise, Browder, Drakesboro, Huntsville, and Herlsville in Butler Co. This was Rock Spring community. This was probably at some of our relatives that still lived there. The fee was raised to \$7.00 in 1908.

Other records in the book.

J. H. Knight with Charley Knight Apr. 9, 1906. $1\frac{1}{4}$ bu. of corn at Taggart place. $.62\frac{1}{2}$ bale hay. $.45¢$. 2 bu. seed corn \$1.00
By work on wagon \$1.25 and other things.

Charley was never married.

Mary Luro was the 2nd. child .She was born Feb. 10, 1874 and died Jan. 1, 1895. Just what was the trouble I don't know, all I could get from my Dad was she had a female trouble. These things wasn't talked much then, and I don't guess they knew much about it then.

She kept getting worse and Dr. John Simmons, Grandmothers' brother from the Sands Springs community came and got her and took her to his home to see if he could help her. I don't know how long she was there.

This was a long way from home then, and on a cold winter day Dec. 31, 1893 they became worried about her and early the next morning Grandpa started up there to see about her.

On the road somewhere he met Dr. John with her in a wagon and she was dead.

This was a terrible shock to her family, but I suppose he did everything he knew to do. They buried her at Simmons Chaple. So once more the death angel had come for one of the Knight children. She was only 21 yrs. old.

The large Bible I have has a page that says, " Presented to Mary Luro Knight by her father, J.H. Knight, July 9, 1885.

The fifth child was Nancy Isabel, known as Nan. She was born Jan. 27, 1878. She married Luther Cook Mar. 1, 1916 at Knightsburg, by W.J. Gates, Min. witnesses, Monroe Cook and E.M.J. Perry.

Luther was the son of Monroe and Mattie Hall Cook. He was born , 1889. Their first child was Lawrence, born Apr. 24, 1917 and died Apr. 28, 1917.

The United States declaired war on Germany Apr. 6, 1917. The first conscription was May 18th. The age was 21 to 30 so Luther was in it. He was sent to camp at Hattiesburg, Miss. for training. Nan went with him and stayed until he was sent over seas. The first landing in France was June 26, but he was in a later group. He was in the Rainbow division. He was a team driver hauling ammunition to the front lines.

In Aug. 4, 1920 they had a girl . Mattie Cleo. She married Robert Jernigan. They have one child, Ronnie Cook Jernigan. They live near Greenville. Nan and Luther lived in the Knightsburg community.

Nan died of a heart attact May 21, 1946. Luther died Oct. 15, 1947. They are buried at Simmons Chaple.

Margret Annie, known as Magg, was born Sept. 5, 1879. She married Charley Shultz. she had one child that died as an infant. They lived in Ohio Co. and on the Wilson farm on Green River. The 1913 flood got over their house and furniture.

I have an iron bed and a small trunk that was in the water. I also hav a glass pitcher of hers I treasure very much.

Magg had a tooth pulled that set up gangreen and killed her. She died at age 35 Nov. 22, 1914. She is buried beside Charlie at Simmons Chaple. Magg was a pretty woman in her pictures.

She left a big square wooden box of pretty dishes in the attic at Grandmas.

The seventh child was Richard Harry, also listed as Henry Harrison. He was born Mar. 31, 1882. He was his mother's spoiled baby.

Harry as he was known was a farmer and coal miner. He married Pearl McCoy. She was the daughter of Joseph and Melinda Vaughn McCoy.

To this union was born eight children.

The first one was James Henry born and died Apr. 19, 1912.

The next was Estil, born May 29, 1913. He married Lorene Brewer, the daughter of Alex and Arizona Harrison Brewer. They have four children, James Henry, Dorothy, Barbara, and Alex Harry.

The third is Margaret Bell. She married Harrison Burden. They have five children, Rosie, James P., Russel, Nancy, and Maryln.

The fourth is Charley, and he married Willowdean Pendley, the daughter of Robert and Rosie Gates Pendley. They have four children, Richard, Andy, Martin, and Cindy.

The fifth is Harry Willie, he married Lucille Wood. The daughter of Gabrel and Hazel Arndell Wood. They had two children, one was born dead, and Rebecca. Lucille died of cancer of the breast and he married Coriene. They have a girl

Reba Joyce.

The sixth is Margie, she married Paul Whittinghill. They had a boy, Butch. She divorced Paul and married Frank Teel. They have a boy, Dale. She lives in Ill.

All the others live in Ky.

The seventh is Barbara Pearl, she married Harvey Peay. He got killed in a steel mill in Ind. They had three children, Harvey, killed in Vietnam, Ernie, and Linda.

The eighth died as a adult. I have no dates on births or deaths. Neal was his name.

The eighth child of Jim Henry and Bell was Mattie Ellon, also listed as Lurrey Ellon. She was called Ellon. She was born Mar. 31, 1885.

She died Sept. 8, 1893 at age eight of typhoid fever. So once more the death angel called at the Knight home.

The family had typhoid, but she was the only one to die. This left Harry the baby.

Nancy Isabel died Apr. 12, 1918 at age 75.

James Henry Harrison died June 9, 1925 at age 81.

The fourth child of Jim Henry and Bell was James William, (my Dad). He was born Jan. 7th, 1876. He was called Willie by his mother. Somewhere along his life he was nicknamed Wig, That name lasted all of his life.

There was no child labor law and it was a custom for people to hire out their children. So Wig was hired out to James D. Campfield at an early age about twelve, to plow for \$50 per week and his board.

He never liked to go to school, but was made to go until he was old enough to refuse to go. His first school was at Skilesville. And later to Simmons Chaple. He had a Blue Back speller and a Mc Guffeys reader and a arithmetic. I still have these books.

Wig was a strong boy and grew to be a strong man, and his father depended on him. He farmed with his father until he was old enough to go out on his own.

He worked as a coal miner at Dovie, near Central City, and boarded there. I don't know how long. I have a U.M.W.A. union book of his dated, 1908. This could be the last year he worked there.

He worked in timber for Kinnimoth Bros. of Rochester. Also for Craig Bros. of Skilesville. They would cut this timber in summer and raft the logs near the river. When the backwater came it would float them into the river. They would build a shanty on the raft to live in as they went down the river to Evansville, Ind. where they were sold.

This shanty was one room built on the logs, with a bed, table, cookstove and stools of wood blocks to sit on. This was torn down when they got to Evansville and shipped back on the steam boat to Rochester along with the furniture for the next trip down.

It took two or more men to take a raft down the river. My Dad never got tired of telling stories about their trips down the river. This was hard work but he could make it sound like it was all fun.

They rafted logs on Green, Mud, Gasper, and Nolin rivers. These logs were drug to the river by oxen and mules. He drove a team of four bulls to a log wagon from the Bowling Green area once to home and fought the bulls off of them on the roadside while driving home.

Dad bought a farm on Green River, across it at Chiggerville. It was known as the Pidcock farm. He lived there by himself until his brother, Harry got married and moved in with him about 1911.

His parents got disable and his brother Charley was at home sick so he moved back home to help them. He stayed on the place the rest of his life.

James William Knight of Knightsburg married Zella Ball of Knightsburg, Dec. 7, 1915 at J.H. Gates by Rev. J.H. Gates. Witness, Jack Mefford and Maggie Gates. Zella was the daughter of Kelly and Mary Keeton Ball. They lived in the Mud River community.

This was really hard on my Mama to take care of his parents. To this union was born three children, and this is where I came in.

Carmon May was born May 11, 1917, Henry Franklin was born Aug. 24, 1920. He died Aug. 26, 1920. Mama fell off some steps she thought caused this. It could have been something else as they didn't know much about these things then.

Albert Clyde was born and died July 30, 1922

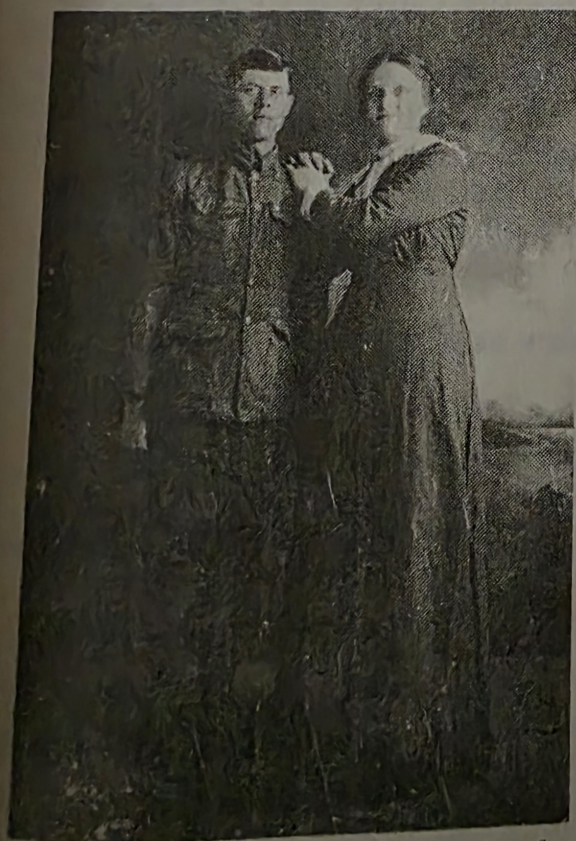
These two babies died and I was always sick until I was grown. So they didn't have any luck raising a family.



James Wm. and Zella Ball Knight
Spring 1916.



Richard Harry Knight and mother,
Isabel; son, Estil and his dau
daughter, Margaret Bell.
About 1916.



Luther and Nancy Knight Cook
World War I, 1916.

My Dad was a hard worker, work was a religion to him. He thought people that didn't work were worse than sinners and didn't deserve anything. He stayed able to work until his late seventys. He lived to be eighty seven and died of hardening of the arteries in his feet and leg. He was the best sick person I ever saw. He lived with me nearly twenty years after Mama died. He always tried to make everything easy for me.

Mama took high blood pressure about 1943 she had strokes until her mind was gone and her body too. She lost one eye and drug one foot to walk the last year she lived. She died Feb. 23, 1945. They are buried at Simmons Chaple.

Dad kept every check he ever wrote, every bill he payed, and a record of every body's wages he paid to work for him. All tax receipts, mortgages, and business deals of any kind.

Tax receipts

Just what year the railroad was built from Owensboro I have no record, but my people have tax bills paid from 1895 to 1911. This was a special tax for funding railroad bonds for each year on list of property owned. The first year Dad paid on this was 1899, it was \$1.27. I don't know how this tax was computed. It was a different amount each year. The last year he paid was 1909 for \$2.00

This was paid to the Co. sheriff. The people were against paying this, and some moved out of the Co. to keep from paying it.

Finally a man by the name of Fleming ran for judge promising to get rid of the tax. He was elected and stopped it. I don't know how the bill was paid.

There was a turnaround at Drakesboro for the train and it was finally built on to Russelville.

There was also a special school tax. One bill I have is, received of C.F. Knight 99¢ in full for tax of school district No. 70 yr. 1879. Signed B.J. Myres, Tres.

They paid property tax and Poll tax too. These taxes weren't much but then they were hard to get.

Dad built us a new house on the hill above the house he and his Dad built, also a barn. The barn still stands at this writing. I moved the house and now live in it.

He cut the trees and hauled the logs to mud river bridge and was afraid to cross the bridge for it was in need of repair. So he rafted them took them across the river and drug them to Dave Smiths' sawmill that was near by. The holes for the pegs to raft them are still in the buildings.

He hauled all the pine lumber to make ceilings and floor, brick, windows and doors from Central City by wagon with two mules he called Jude and Bell. This was an all day journey from early till late.

We moved in this house in March of 1923. A bad storm came the night before, and blew the roof off of the old house.

Carmon May Knight married Robert Glyndon Mercer at Morgantown Ky. Nov. 24, 1938. Robert is the son of Robert Jeff and Viola Pearl Pendley Mercer.

We have two children, Glyndon Ray born Sept. 2, 1939. He married Anita Sue Mahlosky the daughter of Joe and Margie Pendley Malosky.

They have two children, William Glen age 18 at this writing and Angela Joe age 13.

Linda Diane Mercer was born Aug 27, 1949. She has one child Jackie Lynn age 10. They now live at Beechmont and Glyndon at Madisonville. He is brakeman for L. & N. railroad. Linda workes for Peabody Coal Co. at the lab. at Central City.

Butler Co. Deed Book, D. Page 371

This indenture made this Dec. 3, 1836 between Wm. Jenkins & Sarah Mann, of Butler Co. Ky. of one part, and Radney Knight, the other part. In consideration, of \$ 200. in hand paid, by said Radney Knight, the receipt of --- has sold to said, Radney Knight, his heirs, and assigns, a certain tract of land containing, 250 acres by survey, more or less, in said Co. on the waters of Muddy River. being, part of a Military survey entered into the name of Frances Stevens, bounded as follows:

Beginning, on a mulberry on the bank of a branch, running thence, N. 70 W. 72 poles to 3 stumps at the lower end of a lane, thence N. 20 W. 100 poles to an elm & ash, Thence S. 70 W. 30 poles to a gum & elm, thence S. 52 W. 120 poles to a beach, thence S. 20 E. 113 poles to a beach & sweet gum, thence S. 64 W. 30 poles to a white oak & corner of Radney Knight. Thence with his line S. 30, E. 146 poles to a sugar tree & white oak, thence N. 12 E. 250 poles, passing the Rock Springs to a gum & beach on the side of a ridge, thence N. 70 W. 41 poles to a beach & ash, and lying down walnut, by a rocky cliff, thence S. 30 W. 52 poles to the beginning-----.

In presence of

John Sharp
William Knight
S. P. Simmons

Wm. Jenkins (mark)
Sarah Jenkins X
Jessie Mann X

The blanks I couldn't read. This is owned by more than one owner now. This is the farm Radney and Mary and other members of the family are buried on. It is about one mile from Rock Spring Church. It is on the opposite side of the road from the church, in a now wooded area.

Will of Radney Knight

In the name of "God, Amen" I Radney Knight, of sound mind and agreement, doth this day make this my last will and testament. Here by revoking all other wills and councils to wills which may have been made, or foreproved to be made previous to these presents, which is as follows.

My will and bequest is to my two eldest sons, that they shall have the two tracts of land they now live on, and divide the same between them precisely in the same line, that the division was made between, Jessie Mann and Wm. Jenkins. And their right is to be good and lawful as effieced in the deed which I have given them.

And the rest of my property, real and personal, and my will and desire is, that my dear wife, "Mary Knight", shall have the full power, and preservation over all. To see such parts there of as shall be necessary to pay all of my just debts. And after they shall have been paid she, this said Mary Knight, shall have all property, both real and personal, and mixed, to divide as she shall deem just and right between her children, heirs of her own body provided, she shall not marry.

In which case my will and desire is that she, herself, shall give my executors, pronogative over the whole concern, or over the whole effect, as to give her an equal part, on with the other heirs.

And my will and desire is with regard to my sons, Radney, George, and Andrew, that they shall be bound out to some mechanical trade: in which a way that they shall be educated by the indentment contract, provided, they will perfectly be obedient to their mother.

In which case she may keep them with her, and manage and school them as much as she can, in and by the means in her power. In which case they are to remain with her until they shall have become free by age. But and if they shall be bound, as above stated, my will and desire is, that my wife and executive hereinafter expressed, shall bind them. And have them indentment drawn in as will and given from and over as may be expedient. And they may desire is that they then bound, shall fulfil all the duties of apprentices and that care also be taken by their master, to an apprentice, assending to the consined.

My will and desire is that my son, William G. Knight be my executive to this my last will and testament, to fill my will and desire as in pecairing this, nineteenth day of Sept. 1845

His
Radney Knight
Mark X (seal)

Signed in presence, W. B. Williams
E. B. Wooldridge (Squire Harke X)

Signed in clerks' office, Sept. 1, 1848

His
Mark

I copied this will from the old will book of Butler Co. It was so worn I had trouble reading it. The two eldest sons at the beginning is, Wm. Griffin and John Franklin, (my grandfather)

Skilesville was once known as Model Mills and is listed in the 1860 census as Model Mills. It was named for James R. Skiles. He introduced the first steamboat on Green river and spent a large sum of money promoting steam boats. I have no record of what became of the family. None are here now by the name of Skiles. He sold out the mills to Silas Brewer, a relative of my mother. Skilesville was incorporated on Mar. 8, 1876. It had been a town more than 40 yrs before.

By an act approved Dec. 21, 1837 an election precinct was established at the home of Richard H. Simmons, my great grandfather.

A map was drawn by Jacob Luce and was recorded in 1844 in Book II, page 650. This is a large map covering two large pages. This was the dream of a town that never made it long. When I saw this map made so long ago I cried on the inside for sentimental reasons known only to me. I suppose I got my curiosity for maps, deeds, and history from him.

The town was listed as having a population of 100 in 1913. I suppose it had more before then for it was on the decline then. Since I can remember it had 12 houses. Today it has 7 and a loading dock for coal.

Skilesville had a postoffice a number of times, and reestablished. It was in Craig Bros. store building last. One of my records the first one was in 1840. It has been gone since 1907.

In 1847 the town had two stores, one doctor, a Methodist church, and about 15 souls. Land was selling in Muhlenberg Co. for an average of \$ 1.93 per acre.

Dr. John F. Strother owned a two story house in Skilesville built in 1865. Henry Simmons lived in this house later.

The late Henry Strother a druggist of Rochester, was the son of Dr. John and Mary Ellen Simmons. Dr. John practiced medicine at Skilesville. He was a graduate of Louisville and Nashville Medical college.

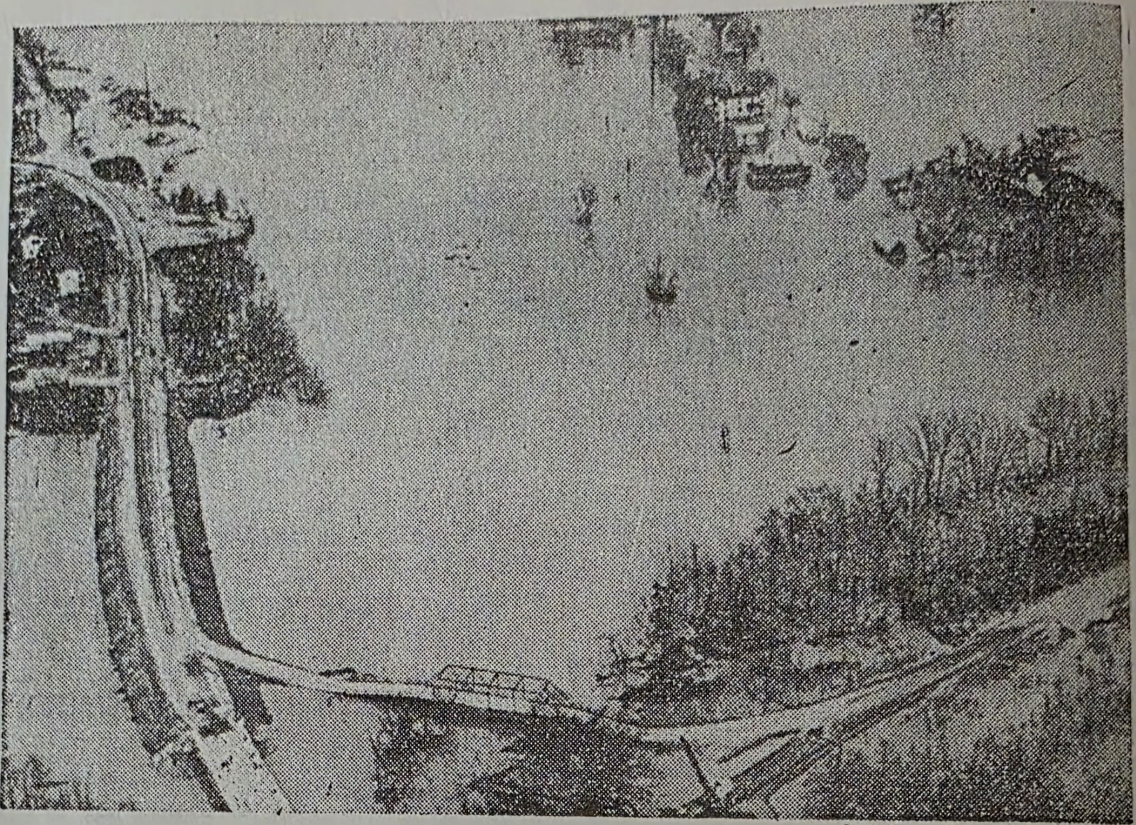
Mary Ellen died in 1863. They had another son, Dr. W. C. Strother. He was a Dr. in Butler Co. for over 40 yrs. He lived on top of Reservoir hill at Rochester. He died July 16, 1893. Mary Ellen was a relative of my grandmother, Isabela Simmons Knight. She had a girl named Ellen. My Dad was some kind of cousin to Henry Strother.

In Butler Co. census of 1850 is Nancy Simmons, age 32, born in South Carolina. Value of real estate \$200.

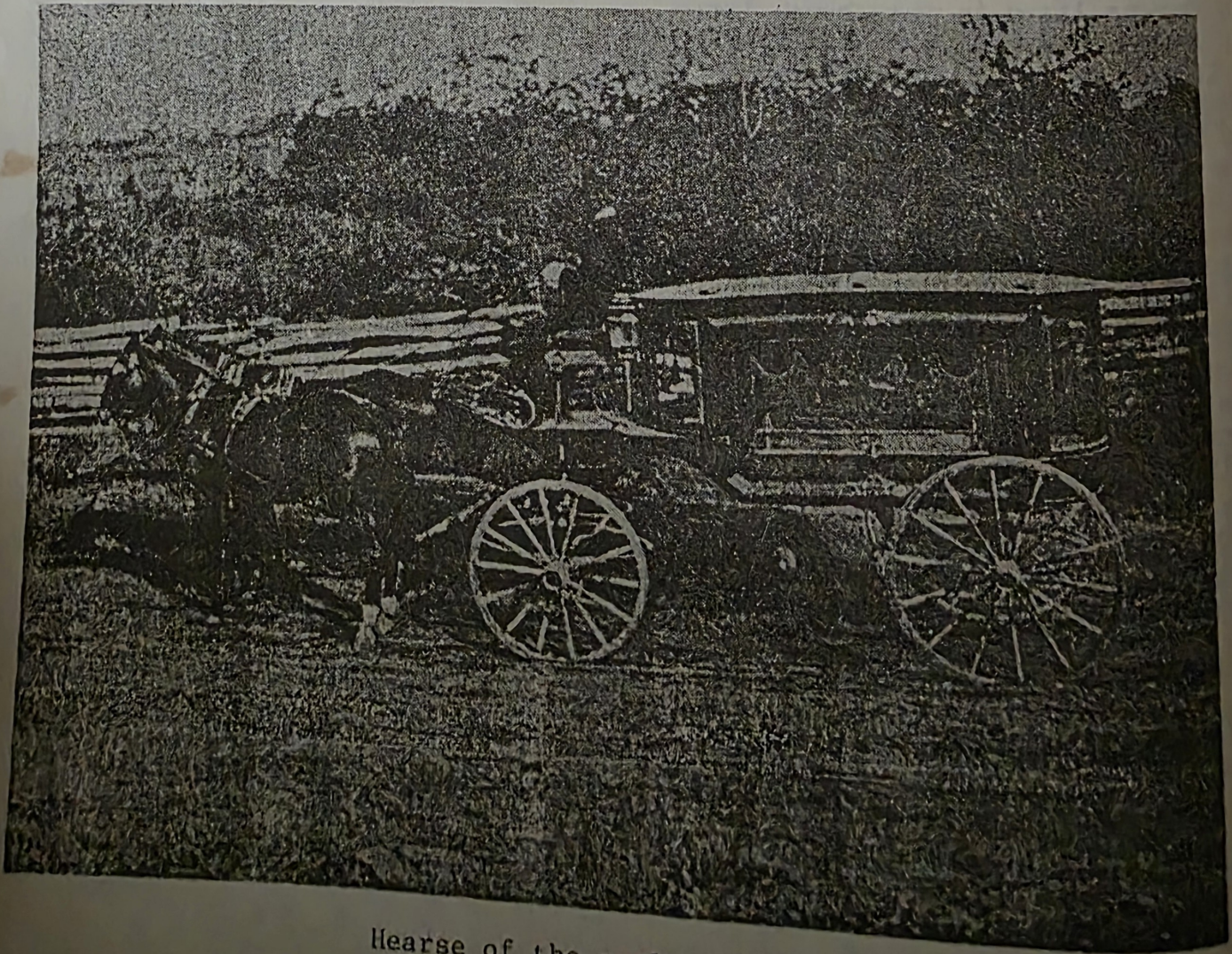
Daniel age 10, Mary, 6 Sara 5, Laura 1. This could be the mother of Mary Ellen and her father could be Wm. Simmons deceased. I have been unable to trace him, and how he is related to my great great grandfather Richard H. and his father Wm. Simmons.

The list of some of the voters of Skilesville in the 1908 Precinct directory I have were, Kelly H. Ball, (my grandfather on my mothers' side) marked a sure republican. W. B. Cox, sure democrat, J. G. Craig, sure democrat. J. F. Craig a doubtful democrat. Robert Draper, sure democrat. Herman Hughes the lock keeper, a sure republican. More are listed but not all the voters at this time. This was also before women were permitted to vote.

Mud river had a ferry at the mouth of it before the iron bridge was built. The road road run along the river bank, now in the river. This was Front street.



Bridge at Mud River. Muhlenberg Co. on left, Butler Co. on right, Ohio Co. across the Green River. Lock and dam No. 3 and houses.



Hearse of the early 1900's.

Several buildings stood on this street near the river.

The mills were on this street and built into the falls, and was run by water power turning a wheel. Some of the rock formation still shows signs of this, but most have broken off and gone into the river.

The mill was a saw mill. A carding and wool factory, and a mill to grind wheat into flour, and to grind corn. Their by products were feed for animals. The 1860 census lists, Silas Brewer, age 37, manager of mills, value of real estate, \$1800, personal \$7000, and born in Ky.

Lock and Dam No. 3

My records state the first locks and dams on Green River were built by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, between 1835 and 1841. They were ceded to the United States in 1886. These locks provided navigation to Mammoth Cave.

The lock no 3 at Skilesville was opened in 1838. so it must have been started before 1835, for it surely took over three years then to build it.

I have been told some of the hewed rock came from what is known as Craigs' bluff. This was done by slave labors

This wall gave away in 1887 and was repaired. It was laid to Civil war sabotage but, it seems there are other opinions on this. There were some holes drilled in it that were never used but it was thought they caused it to give away.

The Army Corps of Engineers owns several acres of this dam area now. Some on the Muhlenberg side of the river. This was a park area when I grew up, people came to picnic, swim, fish, and to just look at the river and dam. It was the most beautiful place in Muhlenberg Co. for this then. Now rocks have been put on the dam to hold it and it has washed the bank away and ruined everything.

Long before white settlers came to Skilesville area Indians or maybe others had been there. There are artifacts behind the lock houses, the hills at Rochester, and the Johnnie Craig hill, and the hill at the dam. Where the bank washes off in the river are flint chips and arrow heads.

The river is deep above the dam. I have been told a cave is under the rock below the water. This has never been verified to my knowing. The story is, a swimmer was diving there and found it.

This river has furnished transportation for coal, oil, and asphalt. Boats also transported railroad ties.

The steam boats hauled freight and passengers until the 1930's. The Evansville run in my time and the Bowling Green before then. Some of my furniture was shipped on the boat. My Dad shipped cattle and hogs to market at Evansville.

People traveled by boat and there were pleasure excursions to Mammoth Cave. There was show boats, one was The Cotton Blossom. This was the only one I ever saw a show on. They were vaudeville acts with lots of comedy.

The Evansville had a wild cat whistle on it that sometimes blew. It could be heard for miles around. It would blow before it got even to our house and sometimes above the dam. It could make the cold chills all over you. If you didn't know what it was it could scare you half to death. It was told some folks in Rochester barred the doors when they first heard it.

The Evansville also had a calliope it played and it was loud too. This was a musical instrument with a set of steam whistles played on a key board. When they played, "Swanee River" it could make you want to laugh and cry too.

Music was scarce in those days, and you really listened to this. I would go out and sit on the hill to listen. I can truefully say this was the most beautiful music I ever heard. I wish we could hear it now. When they played, "My old Kentucky Home", it made you proud to live there. If you knew the words it was the greatest place in the world.

When the boat locked through the locks people stopped to see. It was something to see then. There was a warehouse at near by Rochester, where they loaded and unloaded freight. They would also stop along the river if it was deep enough to land. The "Bowling Green" sank in a storm at South Carrolton, before my time.

The "Evansville" made two trips a week until it burned in the 1930s. This was the end of steam boats on this end of Green River. It also ended the growth of Rochester and Skilesville.

The voting precinct had been moved to Ennis, but it is still called Skilesville. When you talk of Skilesville, now most people of this area don't know where it is. It is a sad sight to see to compare with what it once was. It never grew into the town the citizens had dreamed of. The backwater covered most of it, and there was no room for growth. It is still home to me, but I live about a half mile across the bottom land.

The Simmons Family

William Simmons

The William Simmons I am looking for is the Great grandfather of the Knight family.

I have so many Williams and Richards ,it is so hard to come up with the one I am looking for in all my records.

In the list of soldiers of the war of 1812, North Carolina ,lists 184 detached. Richard Simmons number 58 and William Simmons no.86, of Of Onslow Co. 3rd regiment. (Maybe brothers?).

In the second census of Ky. of 1800 lists Philip Simmons of Logan Co. William Simmons, Nelson, Co. 1/29/1790

Richard Simmons Sr. So. Carolina 1790. Head of family, free white male of 16yrs and up.

William Simmons ,2 free white males 16yrs and up, 4 females and 26 slaves.

Richard Simmons Sr. paid taxes in Bullitt Co. Ky. 8/13/1790.

William and Richard Simmons paid taxes in Nelson Co. Ky. in 1792 is the year Logan Co. was formed. Part of east Logan was taken from Nelson. This was on the upper part of Mud river. I don't know the exact location. I read the deed, but nothing but Mud river was a marker to me.

I am led to believe the William of So. Carolina, 1790 census was the father of the Logan Co. Richard, Philip, and William, but, these names come on down to now.

In the Logan Co. cemetery records, lists William L. Simmons as age 85, died 9/1859 parents J. and C. Simmons. He was born 1774 in Virginia.

These people traveled a lot so they are hard to trace. In the marriages of Logan Co. I have William Simmons to Mary W. Knight 1845. This was the year my great grandfather made his will. This wasn't his son, but maybe a close relative.

In Logan Co. cemetery and Bible records I have Simmons cemetery listed. I went to it. It is on a farm about 1 1/2 mi. off highway 105 leading to Homer from Oak Grove Baptist church. It is a family cemetery. Two William Simmons' are buried there. Wm. E. born Oct. 9, 1827. The other, Wm. A. born Sept. 9, 1865. They are too young for my William. Surely they are relatives.

In Logan Co. census of 1850, district 1, is William Simmons, age 50, born, N.C. Nancy, 39, John 16, Tenophone 13, female. Martha 11, Phion 8, male, Kentucky 6, female, Mary 4, and Eliza, age not given. Cloe Simmons 72, born N.C. 1778. "What names". The John, Nancy, and Mary are family names though.

In the same 1850 census is William H. age 33 and Isabella, 36. Ben F. 9, Croa, 8 female, and Martha J. 6

My grandmother was probably named after this Isabella. I wonder.

In Logan Co. records book of early Ky. wills lists, Wm. Simmons Sr. Aug. 29, --- Nov. 3, 1822, wife Elizabeth, son Wm. daughter, Cecilia Atwell. Exec. his wife, Richard Simmons, brother; mother, Wilson, Abraham Field. I can't connect these either.

Listed in loose papers at Russellville library, Logan Co. 1700 to 1789. There is Elizabeth Simmons, Ann, Rachel, Joel, Thomas, and William Simmons, Page 144 petitioned for a road.

Jan. 10, 1786 a summons for Henry Simmons, an infant son and heir of John S. to answer a bill in chancery exhibited against him by Joel S. June. Discontinued May rules, 1788.

Barbadoes 1678--1679

Parish Registers, births and deaths, lists of inhabitants, landed proprietors, servants, etc.

A list of owners and possessors of land, servants, and apprentices, bought servants and negroes in ye parish of St. Michael's

Philip Simmons, 39 acres, 22 negroes. There is 227 names entered. This could be the first Simmons to enter this country and father of one of the Williams I have. I sure hate to claim him as he was probably a slave trader, with this many negroes but, this is a family name.

In the Butler Co. records I have a Wm. Simmons, married Elizabeth Kelly, Dec. 5, 1850. Also in deed book J. page 13, Wm. Simmons grantee from John Westre grantor. 1/13/1850. This must be the same one.

Logan County, Ky. Deed Book, 27, Page 169

Deed of William Simmons

Know by all men by these presents, that I, William Simmons of the county of Logan and state of Kentucky. For the good will and love and affection I have for my hereafter named children.

To wit. namely, Richard H. Simmons, Mary W. who intermarried with Radney Knight, Elizabeth, who intermarried with Daniel Rust, and Benjamin Peter. I do give and deliver unto my four above named children the following property, goods, and chattels;

Item; first I give unto my son Richard, my negro man named Nero, to be his alone. Also my negro girl, Claripha, and her child named Squire, about six mo. old to have said girl and child during said Richard's lifetime, then to descend to his children. Also to have my old negro woman Patsy, which he is to take care of.

I also give to my son Richard the lower or northern end of my two hundred acres of land lying in Logan Co. wherein I now live, making the drain or gut on the south side of the dwelling house and orchard and near to them say, one hundred yards distant from them. To be his boundry in the division of the land.

Item; I give unto my daughter Mary, who intermarried with Radney Knight, my negro woman Sylvia, also my boy Gabriel, to have said negroes, Sylvia and Gabriel during her natural lifetime, then to descend to her children.

Item; I give to my daughter Elizabeth, who intermarried with Daniel Rust, my negro woman Lydia and her younger child named, Eliza about eight months old, to have said negroes and to hold them during her natural life, then to descend to her children.

Item; I give to my son Benjamin my negro boy George, also my negro girl named Hannah, to have them during his natural lifetime, then to descend to his children.

I also give to my son Benjamin the upper or southern end of my two hundred acres of land I now live on in Logan, Co., on the waters of Muddy creek making the drain or hollow lying on the south side of the house and orchard and near to them to be the division line between said Richard and Benjamin to have and to

have and to hold said land during his natural life then to descend to his children.

In witness, where of I here unto set my hand and assigned my seal this fifteenth day of August, eighteen hundred and forty five.

Witness;

John Roberts
Jas. D. McCurdy

William Simmons (seal)

Logan County Set.

I, Marvaduke B. Mortan as clerk of the said Logan Co. court do certify that the deed of William Simmons to Richard H. Simmons and others was this day produced to me in my office and proven by oaths of John Roberts and James D. McCurdy two subscribing witnesses there to be the act and deed of the said Wm. Simmons. There upon the said deed together with this certificate hath been duly admitted to record in my office. Given under my hand this 18th day of August, 1845.

M. B. Mortan

Attest; Bailey Gun, Clerk, Logan Co. Court, Russelville, Ky.

Aug. 15, 1955

(copied by him)

My William Simmons

From reading the will it can be seen how William Simmons was connected to the Knight family.

The Simmons family is said by family members to be Scotch Irish, who came to the southern colonies before the Revolutionary war and went west into Kentucky county about 1790 or before.

My great-great grandfather William carried a little powder horn through the revolutionary war. The last I heard of it some of the Texas relatives had it in a bank box in Weatherford, Tex. It was owned by Johnathan Luce Simmons Jr.

My records show that he came from North Carolina, to Ky. after 1800. He settled in the Russelville, area of Logan co. and bought a farm on the upper end of Mud river. It was then called Muddy creek.

Nancy Simmons Smith of Texas, said he made a trip back to Virginia on horse back to buy two little slaves. He brought them back in two ends of a sack slung over the horse behind his saddle. A boy and a girl, and this was the beginning of the slaves the Simmons family owned.

I think she forgot where he went for he came from N.C. I know this was common practice then, but it makes me so ashamed.

I have not been able to find any record of who Williams' wife was as she wasn't mentioned in the will. She must have died before then, (1845). I have been told she was a Green or a Duff, but I don't know which.

It seems that from the records, people came from Mecklenberg, Co. Va. to Warren Co. N.C. where the two counties border on the state lines. Then they traveled from N.C. stopping along the way often, and on through Comberlain Gap to Ky. So this could explain William going back to Va.

The Children of William Simmons

Three of Williams' children were born in North Carolina, Mary, Elizabeth, and Richard. I don't know about Benjamin Peter, I have no record of him.

The only record I have of a Benjamin is in Muhlenberg, Co. deed book. He owned 80 acres of land with a John Simmons, in 1878, who they were I don't know. It could be Dr. John.

Richard was born in 1805 in N.C. so they left there after then.

The oldest child of William was, Mary W. She was born, June, 10, 1801. She died Apr. 12, 1867, at Rock Spring, in Ky. and is buried there. (See Radney Knight story.)

The second child of William, was Elizabeth, born 1803 from the census of 1850. She married Daniel Rust of the Skilesville area. They are buried in the Tinsley family cemetery, near Ennis, Ky. now, the Wooton farm. He has a sandstone tomb rock, but she has none.

They were married the 24th of March, 1826. In Logan Co. They lived there before moved to Muhlenberg Co.

The cemetery was on the Jake Tinsley farm.

Daniel Rust, 49 born, Virginia
 Elizabeth, 47 " North Carolina
 Richard H. 17, M.
 Polly A. 15, F
 Ailey E.C. 14, F
 Martha W. 12, F
 Agnes P. 8, F
 Sarah P. 5, F

Also listed, Ephraim Knight, no information, but he was a cousin and nephew of Elizabeth. They had a son, Benjamine, not listed. (maybe married) He and Richard attended the wedding of Duff G. Simmons at Simmons Chaple, Jan. 31, 1858. This is the only record I have of them.

Richard Rust is buried at Simmons Chaple. He died Dec. 2, 1864. He was born, Mar. 5, 1831, age 33

Mrs May Ramsey said one of the girls married Johnnie Campfield, Dave and Bills' father and mother but the only name she could think of was Nancy and neither is named Nancy. They are buried at Allens Chaple, at Ennis.

Polly was a nickname for Mary, so she was named after her aunt Mary W. Knight.

In Rock Spring cemetary is Sarah P. Simmons daughter of Wm. and Abbigale Knight. Born Mar. 15, 1844. Died Aug. 28, 1865.

This Sarah P. Rust was born, 1845. She could be named after her. Wm. was the nephew of Elizabeth Rust.

The next child I have a record of is Martha W. She was born, June 21, 1838.

Harvey Taylors' first wife died in 1855. He married Miss. Martha Rust in 1868. They had one son, Edward Alfonzo. I wonder about the Miss. before her name if she was a school teacher. She was 30yrs old then.

Harvey died and she married Bird Williams. They had two sons, Ellsworth, and Ike. Bird died when the boys were small and she raised them on the farm joining the Eli Wooton place near Ennis.

Eli Wooton married Sarah Taylor, the daughter of Harvey Taylor, by his first wife. This makes Martha her step-mother.

Martha died there, Nov. 6, 1910 of heart dropsey. They took her to Simmons Chaple in a black horse drawn herse with two black horses. She is buried by Ellsworth.

The old house burned. Burned glass marks the place now.

I have a Sarah P. Rust that married, W.H. Taylor June, 23, 1863. Could she be the sister of Martha? Could W.H. be Harvey? Who knows?

The Bird Williams farm was sold to James Arendell.

If W.H. Taylor was Harvey, then Sarah P. Rust was the mother of Sarah Jane Taylor Wooton, and Martha was her step-mother and aunt. Also the grand-daughter of Elizabeth Simmons Rust.

Richard H. Simmons

I am going by the fact that my great-grandfather, Richard H. (the H. is for Henry or Harry) was born in North Carolina, in 1805. This makes Wm. and his family leaving there after 1805 and coming to Logan Co. Ky. They probably came by covered wagon. They came through Comberlain Gap.

I have a Richard H. in Logan Co. record book, page 40 that married Mahalia Moore 4/3/1823. He would be 18 then, but I have no other record of this. It could have been another Richard. There is no record of children, but she could have died soon after marriage.

The next date I have on him is Richard H. Simmons married Nancy Luce Mar. 13, 1828, Returned by J. Gray in Oct. By Rev. J. Baners, This is in Greenville marriage book. He had moved to the Skilesville area by then and had bought land from the Lucs' and was living there.

Muhlenberg Co census of 1830

Richard H. Simmons, I male age 20 under 30, (himself)
one female, age 15 under 30, (Nancy)

This would make him 25 and Nancy 19. Her tombstone at Midway states, Nancy, wife of R. H. Simmons, born Aug. 25, 1811. Died Mar. 25, 1845. The stone is broken. A tornado went through there and broke some of the stones in the early 1970s.

It could have been vandals. I have no information.

Richard was a farmer and a dealer in real estate. I saw 19 deeds in Greenville court house records of property he had owned and sold.

Just where he lived in Skilesville I have never known, but it must have been on the hill now owned by Johnnie Craig, for the Craigs bought that farm from him.

An election precinct was established at his home at Skilesville in Dec. 21, 1837. So he was still living then. He evidently came from Logan Co. and bought land there in the 1820s.

I have a record where he bought 100 acres from Johnathan Luce on Green river. This was part of the Craig farm and a 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre tract I now own. This was Nancy's brother.

In Greenville Court Records 1830

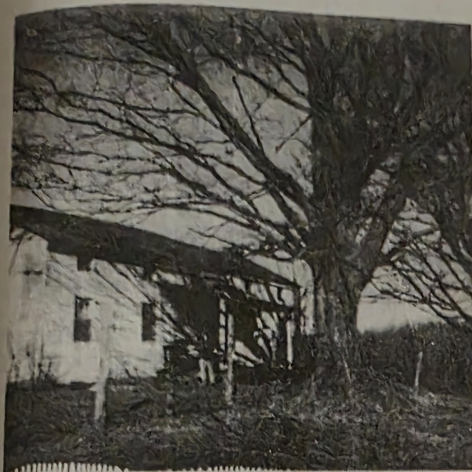
Book, 41 page 144. Richard Simmons be appointed suveyor. That part of road leaving from Greenville to Morgantown. Where Jacob Mefford was suveyor, and that he with same hands formerly, open and keep the same in repair as the law directs. 30ft. wide.

Page 157, Ordered that Jacob Luce be appointed suveyor of the road where Richard Simmons was formerly surveyor, and that he with the hands formerly allotted, open and keep the same in repair, 30 ft. wide as the law directs. Jacob is Richards' brother-in-law.

Richard and Nancy and children moved to a farm where Union Chaple is now. Nancy died there in 1845 and he married again and raised two families there. He died there in 1866 at age 60. (See Simmons Chaple story)

Nancy Elizabeth Luce was the daughter of Wm. Luce, as best I can find. Her mother was a Green I have been told, and Richards' mother a Duff. It could be the other way around. This is who the second child was named after. Hence the name Duff Green.

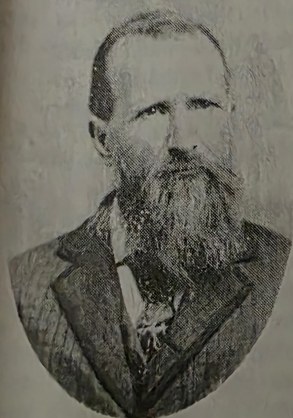
To Richard and Nancy was born 7 children. Richard and Nancy are buried at Midway in Butler Co. near Rochester, Ky.



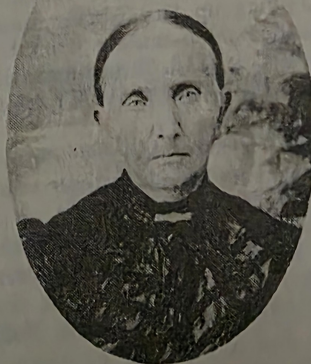
The home of Richard H. Simmons and his great granddaughter, Carmon K. Mercer. Near Simmons Chapel cemetery, now Union Chapel. Dec. 7, 1979.



Duff Green Simmons, son of Richard and Nancy Simmons.



Johnathan Simmons, son of Richard and Nancy Simmons.



Mary Simmons Grable, daughter of Richard and Nancy Simmons.



Nancy Isabel S. Knight, daughter of Richard and Nancy Simmons.

The Children of Richard H. and Nancy Elizabeth Simmons

They had 6 children; Mary, Duff Green, Johnathan Luce, Richard H., Nancy Isabella, and John Wesley.

The first census record I have after 1830 is by Edward Manley. It lists only Richard H. 45, born in N.C. and Rebecca Cassandra, 28. No children mentioned. This is his second wife. I suppose he just didn't copy the children for some reason. This is 1840 census

The July 1860 Census of District 2 Modell Mills (Skilesville)

Richard H. Simmons age 55, Farmer, b. N.C. Value of real estate, \$5000, personal property, \$8000,

Rebecca C. age 34, b. Ky. Domestic

Isabella, " 18, John W. 15,

Children by Cassandra, Christopher 12, William 10, Samuel R. 9, Franklin 7, Rhiney W. 5, Silas B. 3. (I am told there was a girl named Mattie that married a Peterson.

The house that Richard built at Simmons Chaple is still there. It is made of hewed yellow popular logs. It was boxed on the back and weather boarded over the logs. There is two large rooms in front with a hall between them into a large room and then a kitchen, and back porch making a ell shape house with a porch across the front.

I was there in 1980. It is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. from the old cemetery. The old spring is between them. What a sentimental journey this was.

As I have no record of births, only census record of 1830 and no children listed then, this would make Mary M. the oldest, and born 1831. By the 1860 census she was 29 and married to Wilson Grable, 32.

His occupation was a tanner. His real estate was valued at \$3300, and personal property at \$600. He was born in Ky.

This tannery was by the spring on the farm now owned by Robert O. Williams. In the 1930's the Williams family dug up the lumber used in this tanning operation. These vats for tanning leather were under ground. They were made of large yellow popular plank that were still solid. They used them for different things. The ones I saw were rough, but could be planed off smooth, we had one we used for a vanity top.

The children of Wilson and Mary in the 1860, was, Virgil age 8, Samuel 6, Nancy M. 4, Richard H. 2, and J.A. Morrison 1. If this was all his name, or he was someone else's child I don't know.

The Grables built the house on this farm that is still there, it is a two story boxed house. They sold this farm to Robert Draper and moved on to a farm north west of Weatherford Texas before 1900. Georgia, lists the children she knew in Texas as Virgil, Henry, (must be Richard H.) Jake, and Dolph. The others married and moved away.

The second child of Richard and Nancy was Duff Green, called Duffy or Duff. He was born in 1833.

The 1860 census lists him in the Model Mills district of Muhlenberg Co. later called Skilesville, District #2. This lists him age 27, farmer, value of real estate \$2000.

Minerva Jane age 19, domestic,

I don't like this word but, this was before women were recognized much. They had one child, Nancy E. age 2. The E. was for Elizabeth.

In Greenville Marriage book is, D.G. Simmons and Minerva Baker at I.J. Bakers. Jan. 31, 1858. In presence of J.G. Deporster, Benjamine and Richard Rust, and Wm. Nukirk. In old M.E. Church South. This would be old Simmons Chaple log church. I.J. Baker was her father, Israel Jacob Studebaker. They dropped the Stude from their name. Benjamine and Richard were cousins of Duff. I suppose Wm. Nukirk was the preacher.

The Paradise census of July 1, 1870 page 69. D.G. Simmons, 35 Farmer, value of real estate, \$700. Personal, \$200. born in Ky.

Minerva Jane age 30, keeping house, born in Ky. (sounds better than domestic). Nancy 12, attending school. Johnathan 8, Philip 5, Katie 3, Culbert 1.

They were probably living on the farm now owned by the Arndell family. Duff sold it to Charley Sullivan. There were 62 acres. Book 26, P. 379. They left for Texas.

In 1873 Typhoid fever struck the community, four of the family had it including Minerva Jane. The children died and are buried at Simmons Chaple. This may have caused them to leave Ky. They had 12 children I am told 5 are buried there.

Minerva J. and one of her sisters attended school at Greenville Academy, they stayed with uncles, Elisha, and Elija Baker. They sound like twins. They used Bible names a lot in the Baker family.

When they got to Texas Minerva saw that her children got a education. This wasn't easy then.

Georgia Crosthwaite that helped me get this story started is the daughter of Katie Simmons in this 1870 census.

Duff also sold another 62 acres on the Paradise road to P.M. Knight. My Dad says, Duff made two trips to Texas. I only have a record of one. It must be the last one, as he took the family.

Texas Bound

In April of 1874 Duff Green and family, with Samuel Knight, who married Maria Catherine Baker the sister of Minerva Jane sold their possessions and left Ky. for Kansas.

This wagon train they traveled in crossed the Ohio river at Owensboro on a flat boat ferry. As they were crossing on the ferry one of the oarsmen accidentally struck the milch cow with the oar. The cow jumped in the river and headed back to Ky. Duff and his child Nan, called the cow and she turned and swam to the Indiana shore. She was their milk supply for the trip.

Minerva was afraid to get on the ferry, and had to be persuaded by her husband to get on. This story was handed down in the family by Nancy the oldest child.

They started this trip with oxen to the wagon but finished it with mules. They traveled through Indiana, Illinois, and across Missouri to Kansas, they stayed there a short while and went down through Oklahoma Territory to Parker County

Texas.

This trip lasted over six months. They arrived in Parker Co. Texas, in October or November. A trip like this is hard to imagine.

We know now this is called tornado alley. But they didn't know that. They were out there all the storm season. It was also cold weather in Apr. when they left Ky. and cold when they got there. They were also in unfriendly Indian territory.

Great uncle Duffy was a timber man. He passed up the rich land around Dallas, it was selling for \$2. to \$3. per acre, to make his home in the west cross-timbers. He ended his 6mo. journey about 45 mi. west of the military post, called Fort Worth, to a section of Parker Co. with neither church or school.

This was close to his sisters' place, Mary Grable, near Weatherford and Graham. After stage coaches ceased to run here and the railroad missed it, they were isolated.

Samuel Knight and family didn't stay long until they headed back to Ky.

The Simmons children, Nan, Jont, Phil, and Katie walked $2\frac{1}{2}$ mi. to school, until they got the neighbors together and built a Methodist church they named, Bethesda, in 1877. It was used for a school house too. It was rebuilt in 1888. I suppose is still there now.

None of the Simmons family ever returned to Ky to live. They scattered west. The oldest child, Nancy was born at 7mo. because her mother had the measels. The night she was born, Israel Jacob died with measels. He was her grandfather. Children didn't usually live when their mother had measels, or the mother either. Nancy was born, Oct. 25, 1858 and was 16, when they left Ky. Her brother Johnathan Luce, 12, Philip 9, Katie $6\frac{1}{2}$ and John 2, Nancy married Wm R. Smith. They had 9 children.

Katie's name was Cleopatra Alwilda. She married Wm. H. Crosthwaite, they had 3 girls, Alwilda, Elizabeth, and Georgia. Neither married. They were teachers.

The next child of Richard H. and Nancy was Johnathan Luce, he was born 1837. The census of Skilesville, for 1860, lists him age 23, Merchant, value of real estate, \$1000. personal, \$200. born in Ky. I suppose he had a store in Skilesville. He isn't in the next census so he must have left Ky. by then. He went to

east Texas and owned a plantation in Smith Co. He died there. Some of his children moved to Decatur Tex. because the malaria was so bad there. I have no other record of them.

The next child of Richard H. and Nancy, was Richard H. Jr. (called Dick).

Dick was born Jan. 12, 1839. The census of Muhlenberg Co of 1860 lists him 22 yrs. and a merchant at Skilesville. He is listed below his brother, Johnathan, a merchant. He had no real estate so he must have been working for his brother.

He married Melissa J. Craig. She was the daughter of Jessie Garland Craig. The 1860 census of Skilesville lists Jessie, age 41, a stonecutter, value of real estate, \$3000. personal \$4000. born, Ky. Claervon 35, Millisa J. 13, Louisa C. 9 Andrew 5, John 1. Also Nancy Smith 19, bTenn.

I well remember aunt Liss, as she was known. She would come to our house and stay several days. As a child I loved her. She left our house one day and went home to Ohio Co. The next morning she was found dead in bed. She died Feb. 5, 1923 and is buried at Rochester by her children. They are, William E. born June, 2, 1885 died Sept. 14, 1905. R. Henry, Apr. 1871, died June 29, 1908. Otie G. Sept. 12, 1873, and Richard L. May 5, 1878.

The last were still living when the stone was erected, it says in memory of R.H. and M.J. and has all the names of Richard H.s' family on it. He is buried at Midway, he was born Jan. 12, 1839 and died Oct. 25, 1877.

Along by him is Eben Guest Simmons born Nov. 23, 1875, died Aug. 31, 1877. Cleo N. Simmons born Feb. 14, 1867, died Sept. 21, 1870. I suppose they are his children too. The only ones I knew of were R. Henry and Richard L. This would be Richard the III.

Henry was called Granger. He was a lock keeper at Rochester. In the diary of Dr. Westerfield, he has June 29, 1908 my friend Henry Simmons died this morning of typhoid flux, and was buried this afternoon. He left a wife and two girls, Cleo and Ernie. They were still living the last I heard of them.

Richard H. Jr. or II, and his wife Melissa owned a hotel and run a bar in it. It was on the right of the old Rochester road just across Mud river ferry at the mouth of the river. I have been told he owned the ferry too.

He was in the timber business also. He and Bill Fleming was selling barrel stave timber. They had a argument over something about the timber. They were between the ferry and hotel.

Bill had a pistol which he drew and shot Richard through the neck and killed him. Richard was on crutches at the time he had been hurt in the woods. This caused a lot of trouble. Feelings run high in the community, and the family.

Melissa was pregnant and so was Bills' wife. The anger was so high in the Simmons', Knight, and Craig family it was never gotten over. Aunt Mary Knight said, "he killed a gentleman without a cause".

Bill Fleming went to the penitentiary for killing him but, didn't stay long. A new govenor was elected by the name of Blackburn, and he pardoned him. His wife gave birth to a boy while he was gone, she named him David. He had a birth-mark on his neck, said to be in the same spot where the bullet went in Richard's neck. He had another son he called Blackburn after the governor.

He lived a life of fear of the families of Richard. He thought they carried a gun to kill him. I am sure they could have killed him if they had tried, but his mind bothered him about it.

He told my mother at a little store he had in his last years, that he didn't blame the family for hating him, that they had a right to, and that it was always before him.

At his request he was buried on a hill in the woods above the house and barn where he lived on Mud river.

I lived there in the house in the 1940s. I walked up there one day. A fence was around the grave then. I only felt sorry for a man that lived so miserable a life. He said he had never had any peace over it and never would.

Aunt Melissa said one time I remember, that he killed her husband without a cause. She was unforgiving too, and so was my grandmother. Others have told me it was over nothing.

Melissa gave birth to a boy seven months after Richard was killed. His name was Richard L. born May 5, 1878. He married Daisy Ruth. They had 4 children. William Warren, Philip, Daphne, and Richard Jr. that died of a heart arrest, Oct. 15, 1972. The others are living. Their father, Richard was killed by a tractor that turned over on him Sept. 18, 1958.

The next child of Richard H. and Nancy Luce Simmons was, Nancy Isabella, my grandmother. Her record is in the Knight history, she married James Henry Harrison Knight.

The next child of Richard H. and Nancy Luce Simmons was John, later Dr. John. The 1860 census lists him John S. but, his headstone lists John L. which may have been for Luce. He was born, Mar. 10, 1844 and died Oct. 7, 1912.

John's mother died when he was one year old. Babies nursed longer then they do now. The slave woman had a baby nursing and she took him too. Her child's name was John too, but called Kudge by the family.

When John was three years old his father married again, so a stepmother raised him with the help of the slave woman. This was called a wet nurse.

John and his family loved Kudge and visited him after he was set free and moved to Rockport, Ky.

Where Dr. John got his medical degree I don't know. He made a trip to Texas, where his brothers were but didn't stay long.

When he was studying medicine, he came to his sisters' house, Isabel Knight and stayed a while. He went over on the bluff on Green River and dug up some Indian graves. He took the skeletons out and to the blacksmith shop my grandfather owned. He kept them there to study. After they stayed out of the ground a while they began to crumble so he took them back and buried them where they were.

My Dad said they were in good shape when he first dug them up, but the air caused them to crumble.

Dr. John practiced medicine near Lewisburg. We took my Dad by there about 1950 to see the old house, for sentimental reasons. It no longer belonged to his heirs then. They sold it and moved to Lewisburg. I have been told it burned soon after we were there. We just drove by.

Great uncle John was married three times. To sisters the first two times. In the picture I have he is standing between them, one was his wife and the other his sister-in-law.

While my Dad was living we went to Sand Spring church cemetery where he is buried. The grave is on the left of the church as you drive up front. The tombstone is shaped like a horse shoe, only square across the top. It serves for him and all three wives.

His name is across the top, and a wife on each side, and one at his head on the back side.

The inscriptions are; Across the top, J. L. Simmons Dr. Born Mar. 10, 1844, died Mar. 10, 1912. Amelia J. wife of Dr. J. L. Simmons, born July, 14, 1866, died July 25, 1892. Carrie J. (for Josephine) born July, 15, 1873, died Dec. 11, 1900. Ethel S. Galbraith Simmons born Dec. 1881, died Mar. 6, 1948.

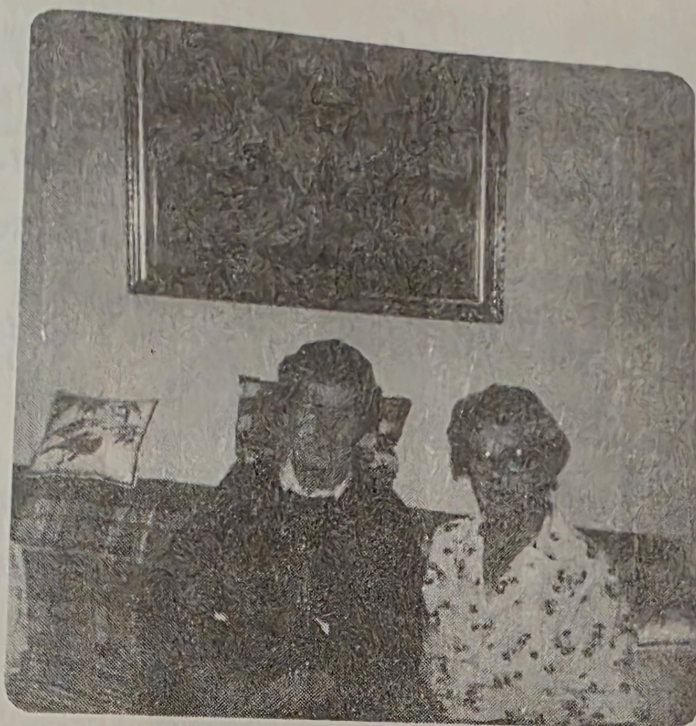
He had one girl by Ethel, is all I know of.

I have been back to Sand Spring church in 1979 and it was so sad there. There is no longer services held there. Vandals had torn the piano apart.

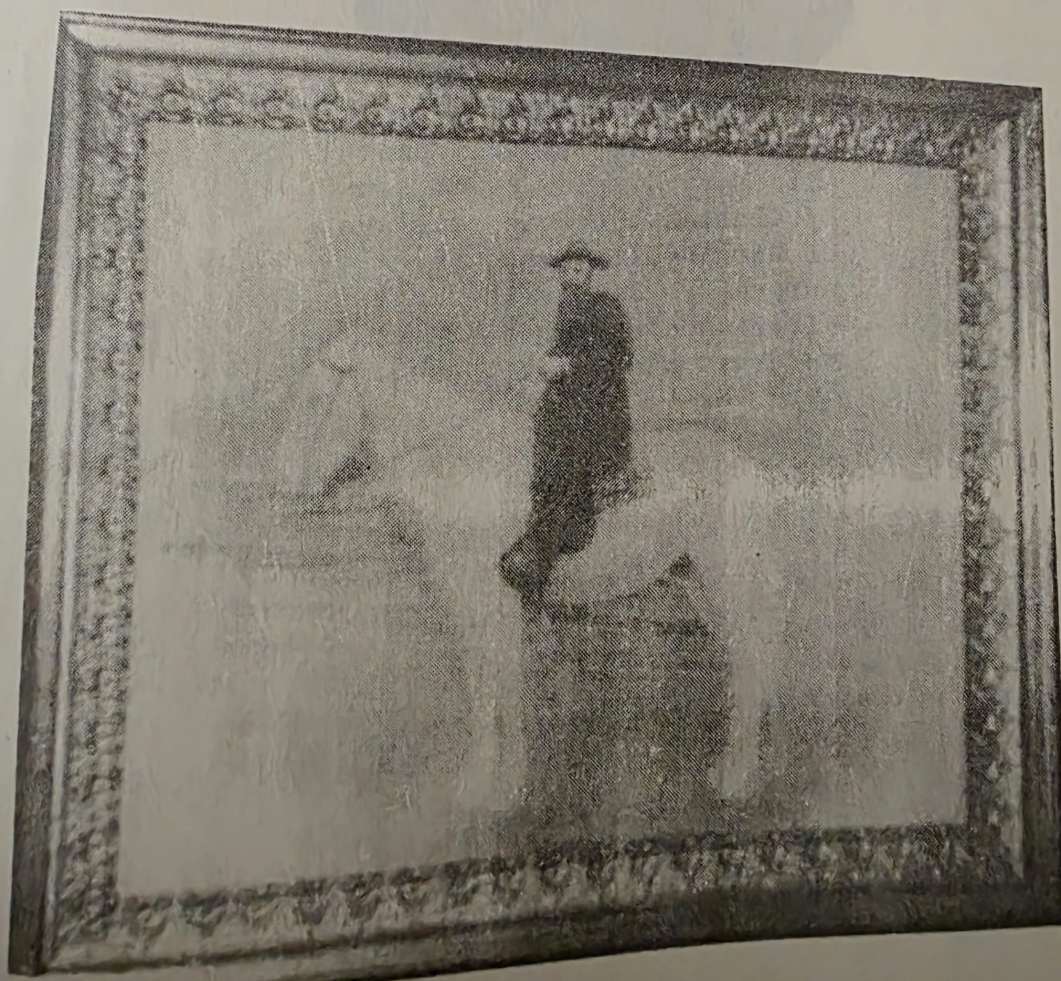
Someone had tried to fix the church and started to sheet rock the walls, but never finished it. They had put a new tin roof on, but a wind storm had blown off some of it. Someone had thrown rocks through the windows. I went in and said a prayer for it and walked out with reverence.

It was a Missionary Baptist church. I suppose uncle John was a member by him being buried there.

The graves are mostly gravel, white and tan and not much soil mixed in them. There was a spring near but we didn't know where to look for it. It is in a sand rock, so the name Sand Spring.



Jessie S. Dyce, daughter of Dr. John and Ethel Williams S. Ila Milam, daughter of Jessie. Made 1983 at Jessie's home at Beechland, KY.



Dr. John Luce Simmons, son of Richard and Nancy Simmons.



John Alexander (Kudge) and
wife Mary Simmons. The son
of Claripha Simmons, a slave
of Richard Simmons. She
nursed Dr. John with Kudge
after John's mother died.
For that she was set free.

Back when great uncle John practiced medicine ,the Dr. cared about his patients,made night and day calls and listened with sympathy for you.You were his friend and not just the next name on his waiting list.However there wasn't much'else he could do for you.

Everything that was thought of was tried.All kinds of herbs were extracted, for medicine.Bleeding by leaches,sweating,and anything was tried that was heard of by the elders.Patients with typhoid,pneumonia, and smallpox hardly ever lived through it.

Until the end of the 19th century not much was known to treat the sick with. Antibiotics came after world war 2.When they came up with penicillin and sulfa drugs we were on the way to a lot of different cures.

Only since the late 1960s have we had a drug to cure T.B. and got rid of the hospitals for that.

Whiskey was used for medicine a lot before 1900 and after.Sometimes mixed in herbs.

So if you think you are sick you are and if you think you are well you are. Sometimes this works.Good mental health has a lot to do with people.

The things they did then was no more unreasonable then our dieting and jogging and popping pills for every pain.(So much for Dr Mercer ha.)

Richard H. Simmons Sr. and Rebecca Cassandra Williams Children

After Nancy died Richard H. married Rebecca Cassandra Williams, Oct. 19, 1847 by Rev. J. H. Felton.

In 1850 census Richard H. Simmons, 45, born, N.C. Rebecca Cassandra 28. I think this age is wrong. The 1860 census list her 34. I think it is right.

Who her father was I am not certain, and I have no information on her mother. The 1860 census of Skilesville list; Henry Williams 62, farmer, real estate value \$7000. Personal \$300. born, Tenn. Cassandra, 42, domestic, born N.C.

This Cassandra is not old enough for her mother and too old for her.

Then Richard H. contested a will at Greenville in book, 111 page 158 for Rebecca Cassandra Simmons, Oct. 24, 1854. This will was made Mar. 1850 by J. Wm. Williams. (He lost) Henry was old enough to be her father but the will seems like he was J. Wm. I can't explain Henry's wife Cassandra.

To Richard H. and Cassandra was born 7 children. When and where Cassandra died and is buried I have no record.

The 1860 census of Modell Mills (Skilesville) lists, Richard H. Simmons farmer, born, N.C. real estate value \$5000, personal \$8000. Rebecca C. 34, born Ky. domestic Isabella, 18. John L. 15 (these 2 by Nancy)

Christopher 12, William 10, Samuel R. 9, Franklin 7, Rhiney W. 5, Silas B. 3.

Pearl Knight said there was a girl named named Mattie that married a Peterson but I have no record of her. Silas left Ky. for Texas after he was grown and never came back.

These other children died or left Ky. There is no one here now by their names. The only Simmons in this area now is the son of Richard 111. He is Willie Warren. He lives in Ohio Co. and has a son Richard that would be no 1111. He doesn't live here now.

All I can think of is 9 great grand children of Richard H. Sr. I am one of them. I am told he is buried at Midway in Butler Co. beside Nancy, but he has no marker. I think he is buried there too. Of all the children he had and possessions he owned what a shame no one bought him a headstone. Maybe they just didn't have the money instead of not caring. Sometimes we just put off things too long.

Simmons I can't connect to Richard H. family

#1 Martha Simmons married Johnathan B. Hunt. She was born N.C. of English descent. Her father was Naysa Simmons, N.C. went to Monroe Co. among first settlers. Went to Mo. came back to Barren Co.

#2 Elizabeth Simmons married Beverly N. Patterson M.D. born 1802 Logan Co.

#3 Susan M. Simmons married Silas M. Green of Logan Co. 10 /7/1832

#4 T.A. Simmons to Radney Knight 1909

Warrents, Surveys, and grants of Russelville, Ky

#1 Nancy Simmons, warrent No. 2074 certificate, 9/11/1798 survey no. 129

#2 Richard Simmons survey no. 97, 50 acres Nelson Co. north br. of Mud Lick 11/4/1791.

#3 Richard H. deeded 100 acres to William Simmons, 3/26/1838

#5 James Welleson to William Simmons on Mud river, 9/17/1841 This could be Richard H. father. His son William was born 1850.

#6 Samuel Simmons in Logan Co. and many others.

Dist. 1, Logan Co. Census, 1850

William H. Simmons, 33 Isabella 26, Ben F. 9, Cava 8, Martha J. 6.

Simmons were in Logan Co. as early as 1793 and maybe before then.

Dr. John F. Strother owned a two story house in Skilesville in 1865. This was later the home of R. Henry Simmons. The son of Richard H. Simmons.

Henry Strother was born May, 17, 1860 in Butler Co. the son of Dr. John F. and Mary Ellen Simmons. His father was engaged in the practice of medicine. A graduate of Louisville and Nashville Medicinal College. Mary died 1863. She was a cousin to my dad some way. Henry was a Druggist at Rochester for several years.

In Midway cemetery is ; Eben Guest Simmons, born Nov. 23, 1875. Died, 8/31/1877. Cleo N. Simmons born, 2/14/1867, died, 9/21/1870. I don't know whose children these are.

There are Simmons families in Muhlenberg Co. now that is no known relation to us.

Simmons Chaple Church and School

Richard H. Simmons the son of William Simmons was born in North Carolina in the year of 1805. With his family he moved to the Russelville area of Logan Co. Ky. He came from there as a young man to the Skilesville area of Muhlenberg Co. probably in the early 1820's.

The lock and dam No. 3 was in the building stage at this time. There was also a woolen mill, a carding factory, and a saw mill there that run off the water power of Green River. So work was available for young men.

Richard bought a farm from William Luce a prominent farmer of the area. He bought a farm that contained part of what later became part of Skilesville. There he courted and married the Luce's daughter, Nancy March the 13, 1828.

He became a dealer in real estate. He bought and sold a number of farms in the Skilesville area. He bought a farm where now is Simmons Chaple cemetery. Also known as Union Chaple. He moved there and raised a family.

The Simmons' family were devoted Methodist. As they moved west they took the Methodist Church with them. I am told there was a church at Skilesville but, I have no record of it.

The Methodist had circuit riders that carried the gospel to the early churches. This wasn't always easy. They had to travel by horseback or walk. This could be very dangerous. In the early 1800's Indians still hunted in Ky. Wild animals were plentiful and rattlesnakes too. As these preachers traveled they were more apt to catch a disease and spread it, and they had no cure for them.

These early churches served the white and black people too.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was in the state of Ky. as early as 1786. The conference of 1800 brought a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit through the summer and fall.

This brought in a great number of people. It started in Tenn. and spread to Ky. This was known as, "The Great Revival". Camp meetings spread and was attended by thousands of worshipers. These meetings would last for days into weeks.

The people came and stayed and camped in the area. They preached, prayed, sang, and shouted the praises of God. The Holy Spirit blessed and moved in a mighty way.

The M.E. Church South grew from 1620 whites and 115 colored in 1800 to 39,750 whites and 9,362 coloreds by 1845

In the early 1840s one of these camp meetings was held on the farm of Richard Simmons, where the new part of the cemetery is now.

They had a good revival and a church was organized.

To build the church the men came together to cut the logs and then had a log rolling. The logs were rolled up on a square pen to form a one room log house, the women cooked for them.

They built a large one room log church with two windows on each side and a door in the south end. Plank seats were made for the whites and split logs for the colored to sit on. Probably one sat as good as the other.

Some of the early preachers were, Rev. Post, Rev. Frogg, and Rev. Crandell. From all reports I have this church was well attended by people of the community.

1858 Jan. 31. Duff Green Simmons, a son of Richard and Nancy. Married Minerva Jane Baker, daughter of Israel Jacob Baker, (Studebaker) at old M. E. Church South. In the presence of J. G. Dupoirier, and Benjamine and Richard Rust. Also Wm. Nukirk. Benjamine and Richard were cousins of the groom.

A community cemetery was started before this on the right or eastern side of the church, they became Simmons Chaple.

The first burial there was, James Myres born, 1854 died 1855. Before this twenty black men were buried on the left side of the road leading to the church. There is a picnic area there now. These men were working on a barge that broke loose above Skilesville dam. They were building a lock wall above the dam. The barge went over the dam safe, but they were scared and jumped in the river and drowned. They would have been slaves at this time. I am told they were loaded in a wagon and hauled to this place and buried. It is possible a black cemetery was already there. There is evidence of several graves.

The late Walter Arendell told me a story that happened at old Simmons Chaple church.

It seems that a group of men met at the church to organize a farmers union. This group was headed by Eli Wooton a leading farmer of the area. My grandfather Jim Henry Knight was there too. He never missed anything that happened in the community.

Some boys at the school near by heard they were going to initiate the members by making them ride a goat, so their curiosity got the best of them and they climbed up in the attic to watch through a hole in the ceiling.

The ceiling gave way and down they came in the midst of the meeting. Eli Wooton was praying at the time near the pulpit, which kept him from getting hurt as they fell on him. He came crawling out and said, "What in the hell was that?" The boys were, Bailey Wooton, his son, Ellsworth Williams, and Dan Sullivan.

They got in trouble at school and had to fix the ceiling back.

A farmers union was organized and I have my grandfathers union card for 1908. This would have been in the 1880s when it was organized.

In 1865 Richard H. Simmons and his second wife, Rebecca Cassandra Williams, made a deed to this M. E. Church South, better known as Simmons Chaple. I had always heard that he gave the ground for the church and cemetery, and he did until this deed, and the church bought it for \$20.00

He died in March of 1866. He must have been sick when he made the deed as he died so soon after.

Simmons Chaple Church and Cemetery Deed

Deed book 22 page 124

Greenville, Ky.

1865 Richard H. Simmons and Rebecca C. to trustees: S. H. Brewer, James G. Myres, W. S. Grable, S. B. Myres, V. R. C. Simmons, and their successors as trustees by appointment of the second part in consideration of \$20.00 coin in hand, for the M. E. Church South.

Land bounded as follows, begin at a black oak, N. 78, E, 17 poles to a hickory. Then S. 12, E, 19 poles to a black oak. Then S. 78, W, 17 poles to a stake and white oak marked as a point. I point pff, thence N., 14, W, thence N. 14, 14, W thence N. 12, W. 19 poles to the beginning.

Together with full and free access to my spring. Containing two acres, more or less by survey with a house known as Simmons Chaple, together with all appurtenances there unto belonging to. To have and to hold free from claim of Richard H. Simmons.

Also a free highway to Greenville and Skilesville road on J. Q. Fleming side of road.

This old spring in the deed was still used by the church when I grew up. It was strong copperas water, and turned the bucket and dipper a gold and brown. It would quench the thirst, but tasted terrible.

The church had a table by the door for the bucket to set on.

The church was heated by a stove. They had a homecoming each year with dinner on the ground near the spring.

Mildred Craig Hayden of Skilesville told me that my grandmother, Isabel Simmons Knight, would bring chicken and dumplings in a gallon bucket to the dinner, and she would slip off to the spring with her, because she liked chicken and dumplings. The custom was that everyone ate their own lunch.

The homecoming is still held once a year.

Someone set out some honeysuckle in the cemetery and it took over the whole cemetery. At the homecoming the cemetery was cleaned off with hoes. Lawn mowers wasn't heard of yet. This was done until the 1930s or until lawn mowers were invented, or until the people could afford to buy one.

Two new churches were organized and built from this church. There could be others.

The first one I have a record of was Bethesda, in 1877 near Weatherford, Texas. It was a Methodist church. It was built by two of Richard Simmons' children and their friends. It served as a school too.

This church was rebuilt in 1889 and is still there. The first couple married there was Kate Simmons and Will Crosthwaite. She was a granddaughter of Richard Simmons.

In the late 1800s the church began to get old and run down, and attendance was low especially in the winter.

In the summer of 1897 a preacher by the name of W.R. Cox had a revival in a tent close by the old church. They had several people saved. Some of the names, were Elsworth Williams, and Rud Hope.

Rev. W.J. Gates helped to organize a General Baptist church. They named it Union Chaple because, it was a union church. The Baptist and the Methodist both used it until later the Methodist moved to Ennis and built their church that is there now. They named it Allens Chaple, because they had several Allens for members and still do.

Henry Cox bought the Richard Simmons Farm, and he gave one acre of ground to General Baptist to build the church that joined the cemetery.

A few years later the Simmons Chaple trustees deeded the old church lot to Charley Fleming. The trustees were: John Turner, Thurston Woodson, and Bob Depoister.

There were harsh feelings about this, the members didn't like it. It was in recent years deeded back for the cemetery. Time has proved it was a mistake they only got back part of it and it is filling fast.

The spring is used for water on the farm near by.

Sam Allen bought the logs of the old church and built him a house near Ennis. He lived there a while and it burned. This was after 1900.

The first burial at Ennis Methodist cemetery was, Matt Allen in 1910.

Union Chaple General Baptist Church

In the summer of 1897, Eld. Wm. Gates conducted a revival in the farm of Henry Cox. This land joined the Simmons Chaple cemetery. A church was organized and Henry deeded them one acre of ground to build on.

This building was finished by the community the next summer, all but the windows and doors. They met in it for service all summer of 1898.

They had a special prayer service for the men serving in the Spanish American war. They also had two associations there before the doors and windows were put in. I suppose their money was scarce. After they were put in, Wm. (Bill) Robinson, the father of David Robinson, bought a stove to heat the church. Then they could have service in the winter.

The men made the seats and pulpit, also a small square table for a communion and the water bucket. The water came from the old spring down the hill.

This building was approximately forty by fifty feet. The back side was next to the cemetery, with a door on the west corner.

The sides had three windows on each one. The front had a door on each side. A center post was in the center and a flue for the stove.

A small pulpit area was on the back. This was enlarged for a choir in the 1920s.

The church caught fire around the flue in the fall of 1939. It had a board roof, and it caught on it or in the attic. The men climbed up and knocked off boards to save it and they could have if they had any water.

They were fixing for the funeral of Ella Knight Allen. The funeral procession was coming up the hill and had to be stopped until it burned.

There was enough men to take out the doors and windows. The seats were carried out, and the organ and everything, so just the building was lost.

Services were held at Simmons Chaple school until a new building was built. The timber was donated and hauled by the church and the community to Walter Arrendell's saw mill and cut there. All the work was donated that I know of.

Elmo Wood, a carpenter, of the community was hired to build it with the help of the donated labor. He also donated some of the labor. It was larger than the old church, but had the old doors, windows, and furnishings.

This church at this writing has been remodeled about five times. It was completed in the summer of 1940 and dedicated in 1941. Money was scarce but, the people had a mind to work.

The war started and the names of the boys were put on the wall and prayer was made for them.

The way I remember they all came back but one, C. R. Robinson.

This history of the Union Chaple church is for historical reasons and so it and the names can be preserved for the record of anyone interested.

The first minute of Union Chaple, Sept. 16, 1897

Union Chaple church met on Sept. 16, 1897, with Eld. W. J. Gates as moderator, in the chair, and deacons, G. W. Greenwood, Thomas Carter, and J. C. Tams of Calylieate Spring, church in presbyter.

After having examined the members of said body on their doctrinal views of scripture, and finding them to be in harmony and sympathy with General Baptist doctrine, a prayer of consecration was offered by Bro. Robert Draper.

The Bible was presented to the church by Eld. W. J. Gates, after which the hand of fellowship was extended to them.

Three deacons, were then chosen and ordained, namely, Bro. James H. Knight, Bro. David Robinson, and Charles W. Ross.

Then the election of pastor, which resulted in the choice of Eld. W. J. Gates, to preside the coming year, and the election of A. J. Boatwright as clerk, to serve the same.

The Church Covenant was written out and agreed to. It was adopted.

Sept. 18, in the year of our Lord 1897

Trustees: J. H. Knight, R. E. Williams, and D. M. Robinson.

List of Pastors; Eld. W. J. Gates, Eld. G. N. Covington, W. J. Gates, G. W. Johnson, W. J. Gates, and J. M. Maxberry.

List of clerks, from 1897 to 1908

Andrew Boatwright, J. D. Arndell, J. A. Mahlusky, John F. Cox, R. E. Williams, and B. M. Mefford.

Clerks, 1909 to 1911

B. M. Mefford, R. E. Williams, and G. Q. Fleming.

James H. Knight, deacon, and David Robinson, Charles W. Ross, excluded, and Andrew J. Boatwright.

Clerks, J. F. Cox, and R. E. Williams, deacon.

Members of Union Chaple Church

Many of the charter members were also members of Simmons Chaple church. The older people called it Simmons Chaple for several years and still do.

On Sept. 24, 1910 a motion at the business meeting was made to change the name back to Simmons Chaple. The Motion carried.

For some reason the next minute was July 15, 1911. It was still called Union Chaple, and it was never mentioned again in any minutes. Also at this meeting, a committee was appointed to correspond with members not attending church. So the early church had problems with their members too.

Names of Female Members of Union Chaple Church

61

sister, Eliza Robinson -----Died May 16, 1912
" Nancy B. Knight
" Erinda E. Boatwright-----excluded
" Mary A. Millen
" Katherine Robinson
" Sheba A. Ross
" Edna Hill
" Theodocia Hill-----Died Apr. 8, 1911
" Margaret A. Robinson
" Rurie Barnett-----dropped
" Minnie Robinson
" Marguret Baker
" Rosa E. Fleming, (Allen)---died July 6, 1905
" Anna A. Buchannon
" Nancy L. Cottrell-----died
" Luria A. Tucker

Here the ink changed, so I am supposing these are the charter members.
The next entry was 1901.

Names of male members;

James H. Knight
William E. Robinson-----died Aug. 17, 1900
Joseph A. Mahlusky
Zachariah W. McGehee-----excluded
Charlie W. Ross
Andrew J. Boatwright
Charlie Tucker
James R. Cottrell

The ink changed here so, I suppose ends the charter members. The deacons are
not all here or clerks and trustees either.

The number of female members were always more than male in the other books.
These people are all dead .

Female members after the ink changed

Sarah A. Baker, died Aug. 6, 1906

Nanny Mahlobsky

Sue Dobbs Knight

A. Magg Knight Shultz, d. 1915

Julie Barnett--Excluded

E. L. Knight

Bety Camfield---Exc.

Laura J. Knight Arndell, d. Apr. 22, 1911

Mernie Baker Knight

1906

Lizzie Gates

Maude Harrison Mc Donald

Eathel Cox, dismissed by request

Nancy J. Harrison

Annie B. Eddings, dropped

Laura F. Cox, " by request

Florence M. Camfield, dropped

Mary F. Turner Williams

Della Knight Dorris, dropped

Sarah Brewer Stenson, d.

Arizona Brewer, died

Mattie Bennewitz

Stella Cottrel Knight

Pearl Knight, dropped by request. Came back Aug. 18, 1923. Dropped Apr. 26, 1903

Willie Kimmel

Hazel Mefford Fleming, died Sept. 4, 1924

Martha M. Williams, died 1910. (new ink)

Fannie B. Beck, by letter, died

Cordia Mefford, died Feb. 4, 1937

Mary F. Mefford Brister, died 1906

1906

Otha Turner, died

Hazel Arndell ?

Eva Camfield Hardison

Mattie Gates Talley, dismissed by letter

Ethel Cook Mesten

Vera Turner Lewis, dismissed

Ruth Cottrell, died Mar. 24, 1910

M. F. Fleming, died

E. L. Boatwright Purdue

Fordice Morhead Carrol, died

F. B. Vick

Ida Dalton Scaggs

Ethel Cartwright

Minnie C. Cartwright

Oct. 23, 1908

Ettar Robinson Wood

Essie Knight Nole, dismissed

Cont. from page 55

Mable Fleming
 Mary J. Dalton, died
 Novella A. Knight Barrow
 Maudrey Cook Benewitz
 Nannie Benewitz
 Nellie Knight Carrol
 Olga Cartwright, dropped
 Nama Hill Cartwright
 Nina Camfield
 Sept. 1, 1909
 Geennie Gregory
 Essie Hill Wester
 Sept. 14, 1909
 Maggie Dobbs Knight

Names of Male Members

James H. Knight Died June, 9, 1925
 William E. Robinson " Aug. 17, 1900
 Joseph A. Mahlosky
 Zachariah W. McGehee ----- Excluded
 Charles W. Ross ----- "
 Andrew J. Boatwright "
 Charley Tucker----- "
 James R. Cottrell----- "
 Old ink ends
 William R. Baker -----died
 James D. Arndell -----" July, 17, 1908
 These two new ink
 C. M. Morgan (ink changed)
 Lewis Benewitz-----died
 Willie Hill
 ----? Knight -----dropped
 R. L. Hope-----died
 Argile Robinson ---died
 J. E. Cox----- "
 R. K. Robinson ----- "
 May Piper
 M. J. Sharfeson-----dropped
 J. C. Burris----- "
 Geo. M. Crumbr ---dismissed by letter (new ink)
 Alex R. Brewer-----died
 John H. Brewer----- "
 Frank Eddings-----dropped
 Willie Kimmel----- " by request
 S. J. Gregory -----died
 Tom Cottrell----- "
 John B. Fleming-- "
 W. Strother Turner " Feb. 3, 1913
 J. R. Cottrell "
 J. Alva Cottrell "
 Eld. W. J. Gates-----Exc. by letter
 Rev. I. R. Brown-----"
 R. E. Williams-----" June, 9, 1921

Cont.

B.M. Mefford-----died Apr. 27, 1905
Aug. 26, 1906

Willie Long----- " 1907

Earl Fliming----- " July 26, 1908

J.M. Dalton----- " Georgia Ward

James Radney Knight --dismissed by letter 1908

Artie Cartwright---dropped

A.H. McCoy

End first book of names, I have copied for historical reason only.

Notes taken from minutes of first U.C. Church Book

Mar. 26, 1899 Skilesville, Ky.
Business meeting

Bro. J.H. Knight, D.M. Robinson, and J.D. Arendell, appointed to visit M.F. Tinsley, Moderator, W.J. Gates, Clerk, J.H. Knight

Aug. 7, 1898
Delegates appointed to go to the association, J.A. Mahlosky, sister N.B. Knight, and Maggie W. Baker

Sat. Aug. 26, 1899
The Union Chaple General Baptist church of Christ met in due form at Simmons Chaple, for business etc. M.F. Tinsley ask the church to pardon him for his wrong, (using profanity).

Mar. 23, 1901
A commity was appointed to wait on sister Barnett and sister Knight. Appointed, was sister's Eller Knight, Minnie Robinson, and Rury Allen.

Apr. 27, 1901
A commity of five from a sister church appointed to wait on sister's Julie Barnett and Bell Knight. The committee was, G.W. Hardison, William Ball, Issac Williams, J.H. House, and Moses Stanley. To meet at 10:30 Thu. before 2nd Sun. in May. J.D. Arendell, clerk (these were from Mud River Union church)

May 21, 1901
Report of committee.
Called on sister, Bell Knight and Julie Barnett's case. Report read and the committee discharged, sister Julie Barnett excluded.
Bro. J.R. Cottrell who was excluded at last meeting has returned for a new hearing, which was granted.

Mar. 23, 1902
A motion made and sec. to call a preacher to fill out Bro. Gates time.
Bro. G.N. Covington, elected

Aug. 23, 1902

65

Appointed delegates to the association, J.D. Arendell, J.H. Knight, Rosy Allen, Laura J. Arendell, Eliza A. Robinson, J.A. Molusky, John F. Cox, clerk. To be held at Mud River Union church.
Dec. 1902

A resolution was passed, that we will not receive any person as a member of this body who does not publicly oppose the sale and traffic of all intoxicant liquors. J.H. Knight, clerk, pro. tem.

Feb. 1903

A comitte apointed to inquire into the non attendance of male members. Com. J.F. Cox, W.S. Turner, J.H. Knight, a comitte to raise funds to pay pastor also, Laura Cox and W.S. Turner.

July, 1903

The church was to proceed to make arrangements for the dedication. Rev. G.N. Covington to preach the sermon, and Rev. J.R. Brown to offer the prayer. To take place the fourth Sunday in Aug. 1903. J.D. Arendell placed on building comitte. (no minute recorded on dedication)

June 23, 1906

Church was not at peace. Trouble between Bro. B.M. Mefford and Bro. J.B. Fleming. A comitte was apointed to visit the brothern. J.D. Arendell and J.A. Molusky.

July 22,

(not at peace)

Aug. 25, 1906

The comitte was dismissed on the trouble between B.M. Mefford and J.B. Fleming. (The story behind this was, Mr Mefford would say, "I forgive him but I can't forget") This was disturbing the pastor, Bro. Gates, or over time he had them to apologize to one another he would say the same thing. It was left that way. New members were, Otha Turner and Hazel Arendell. W.T. Weatherford was elected pastor. R.E. Williams, clerk.

1908 Paid the pastor, G.M. Johnston, \$30.70

Aug. 21, 1909

Members present:
J.H. Knight and wife, Bell, J.M. Dalton, R.E. Williams, B.M. Mefford, R.R. Hope, Maggie Knight, Minnie Robinson, Essie Knight, Otha Turner, Ethel Cartwright, Olga Cartwright, Corda Mefford, Laura Arendell, and Mary Williams.

1908 To 1909 Church Officers

Deacons, Bros. James H. Knight, David M. Robinson, and R.E. Williams.
Eld. G.W. Johnson. Pastor, B.M. Mefford, clerk.

1910

Same deacons, Eld. W.J. Gates pastor

1911

Same officers, J.M. Maxberry pastor.

Sept. 24, 1910

A motion was made and sec to change the name of the church from Union Chaple to Simmons Chaple. The motion carried.

B. M. Mefford, moderator, protm. R. E. Williams, clerk.

The next minute was July 15, 11. It was still called Union Chaple, and never mentioned again. A comitte was apointed to correspond with members not attending church.

Aug. 1913

Bro. J. C. Gary, called as pastor, and R. C. Richmond, pastor.

Minutes lost to Aug. 1914. Bro. W. J. Gates listed as moderator. So he was the pastor then.

A new book was started in 1923

Aug. 1938

Revival, by Bro. Gary and Bro. Perry. There were 32 professions and 25 joined the church. Some of the ones baptised were, Carmon Knight, Theodore Knight, Lottie and Leulla Jernigan, Mary Ruth Sullivan, and Lois Sumner.

1932 There was 130 members, and they paid the pastor for the year, \$104.65.

Aug. 17, 1946

Members present; Vona Turner, Mary Sullivan, Melvin and Lelia Mallory, Ruth, Raymond and Joyce Williams. Robert & Carmon Mercer. Pat & Florence & Christene Robinson. Kular Barrow, Georgie Wester, George Brewer, & Jack Robinson.

This is still Union Chaple at this time.

Simmons Chaple School District # 4

In the early 1840's Richard H. Simmons moved from Skilesville to a farm that now joins Union Chaple church property. There was no church or school closer than Skilesville, a distance of about three miles. So the Methodist A.M.E. South built a church of logs on his property. This was used as a school too.

The parents would collect money from each family and hire a teacher for a term that usually lasted five months. They usually furnished the teacher a broom, water bucket, dipper, and coal bucket.

Their books were furnished by the parents, so special care was taken of them, for they were handed down to the younger children, and kept in the family. I still have the worn books my Dad and his family studied.

The books were, the "Blue Back Speller". This taught spelling by syllables. Each word was taken apart and pronounced by the sounds of each syllable.

The arithmetic was, "Rays Series". They read from, "Mc Guffeys Readers". These stories consisted of good deeds and morals. Also Biblical related stories.

They were taught character and obedience. The rod was used if they didn't obey the rules.

The first Simmons Chaple school house was where the Davenports now have a new house. It was a one room log building erected by the community on the farm of Richard H. Simmons. If it was ever bought by the county I couldn't find a record but there must have been some kind of agreement. In 1875 it was listed in county records and valued at \$250. The ground was owned by Charley Fleming when I can remember.

This log school building had four windows, two on each side, and one door in the front end. Seats were made of split logs. It had a clap board roof and was heated by a stove.

The log building got old and a new one was built of lumber and boxed. It had a board roof also. I have been told the people really thought they had something then and they did at the time.

This building was built after 1882, for my Dad went to the log school. He would have been school age in 1882. He also attended at Skilesville, so I don't have a record when he went to Simmons Chaple.

In 1911 a new school building was built by the County out on the Ennis to Skilesville road. In Deed Book 80 page 448 in 1911 a deed was made by G. Q. F. and M. F. Fleming for three fourths acre to Muhlenberg Co. for a school, 2½ mi. from Skilesville. It was district # 72.

This is where I started to school in 1923, to Fred Fleming as teacher.

This was a large one room with a hall across the front that had a window in each end and a inside and outside door in the center. The school room had 2 windows on the south side and two on the north. It had pine floors and ceiling over head and walls. A pot belly stove in the south side corner.

A large concrete cistern at the back furnished water. A shelf in the hall was for the water bucket and dipper. If the well went dry the children carried the water from Williams' spring. This was about three fourths mile.

This school served until 1946. I carried a petition and got enough to sign it to move to Drakesboro and Hughes Kirk, in 1947. The building was sold to Robert Williams. His family lived there until Dec. 1978 and it burned.



Simmons Chapel School No. 2 about 1876.



Simmons Chapel School children.
Miss Fordice, teacher. Before 1900.

some of the teachers of Simmons Chaple School

69

Bernard G. Myers, and his sister or daughter, Puss Myres, who married Wm. Bunch, a Comberland Presbyterian preacher. They all went to Weatherford, Texas. She was a cousin to Minerva Jane Baker Simmons.
Miss V.A. Williams. Miss Isabela Simmons, (my grandmother), Jack Boatright, Tom Sumner, Sherrod, Hollie Bersheer, 1898. Althia Underwood, Miss Fordice Moorhead, married George Carrol, M.B. Bradley.

Teachers after 1923, Fred Fleming, his wife Stella Lee. Erma Galloway, Nora Mercer, Clint Mercer, Estelle Williams, Dona Brewer, Delmer McClearn, Ann Param.

Muhlenberg Co. School Records 1875 to 1879

District # 70, (Skilesville ?) J.S. Campfield, Trustee. Teacher, S.F. Kennemoth
For 40% attendance, paid the teacher \$21.33, for 60% paid \$30.78, for 100%, \$51.30.
Mar. 23, 1896, J.S. Jim Campfield, Rochester, Ky. Trustee;

District # 4. Simmons Chaple School

G.W. Allen Trustee; Teacher; Miss V.A. Williams, paid, \$110.01

Feb. 9, 1878. Paid to M.B. Bradley, teacher, \$46.92. Paid to him Apr. 19, \$67.32.

1875 school year ending June 30, No. of months of school, 5. The highest no. of children at school, 40, the lowest no. 24, average no. 32. Cost of tuition for each child, \$3.90½. cost per month \$.79½. No. of female teachers, one. Average wages of teacher, \$25.00. Amount of money raised by other means than taxes, \$20.78. Total amount used for tuition.

Kind of school house, Log, value of house \$750.00

1876, No. of white children between the ages of 6 and 20 was 20 to 27. Year ending June 30, term 5 mo. Highest no. of children 19, lowest no. 8. Cost of each child for 5 mo. was \$6.51. Cost per month \$1.30.

Average wages of male teacher, \$17.37. Kind of school house, log.

1877, The highest no. of children, 25 the lowest no. 5, average of 16. Cost of tuition, \$8.92 per year. Per month, \$1.78. One female teacher, wages, \$18.56.
Log school house value, \$75.00

Simmons Chaple listed in 1908 as District # 14

The records don't say Skilesville was district 70, but I am using tax records for this is all I have to go on.

Received of C.F. Knight, \$1.21. School tax for the year 1895, in District # 70.

July, 29, 1895. J.D. Arendell, Treas.
Received of C.F. Knight, \$.99 for school tax, Dist. 70, year 1896, B.G. Myres, Trespure.

Luces of Skilesville Community

Abner Luce appeared in Muhlenberg Co. records in 1800, and was exempt from Co. levies for the elderly. This was usually for old age or infirm. There is also a possibility of no records or lost ones, for Muhlenberg just became a county in 1798.

His first records were, Morristown, in Morris Co. N.J. and earlier from Shelterberg Island, and Long Island, N.J. They must have been a family of surveyors. Abners' son, William the surveyor, was in the Muhlenberg records Feb. 25, 1800, where he and Henry and Alexander Keath, marked out a road from Adams Ferry to Greenville, Feb. 2, 1801. This was probably the ferry at Skilesville on Mud River.

William is my great-great-grandfather, through Nancy Luce Simmons.

Stock were allowed to run loose at this time, until round up time and every one had a stock mark. William Luces' mark record was, "a crop in the left ear and a slit in the right ear." This was registered at Greenville.

William had several hundred acres patented in his name, including land around Skilesville, where Muddy river empties into the Green. Five lots of the town were part of the original Wm. Luce survey. This survey included land on both sides of Mud river. One side being Logan Co. prior to the formation of Butler Co. in 1810. This on the Muhlenberg Co. side was Logan prior to 1798 when it was changed to Muhlenberg.

Part of the land was patented in the name of David Luce and Richard Simmons. The Knight survey joined their property and was later theirs. A hill I now own was known as Luces' hill. A house place is there and I think David lived there.

John Luce married Betsy Mc Quarry, in 1808. Jacob Hunsaker married Mary (Polly) Luce in 1880, all in Muhlenberg Co. Later records show Isaac, Jacob, and Jonathan N. Luce. They are sons of William.

David was appointed constable in 1810, and resigned the same year. In 1810 the governor appointed him a justice of the peace. He was a private in the co. of Capt. Alney Mc Lean from Muhlenberg Co. in 1812.

When the State of Ind. was being formed, David moved his family to Warrick Co. Ind. Including his son Abner, named for his grandfather, Abner Sr. His wife, Mahettable joined him with others going from Muhlenberg to Ind.

Abner Sr. died in 1818. Mahettable died in 1836. They are buried in Baker Creek Baptist church cemetery, Spencer Co. Ind.

Abner, Davids' son, laid out the town of Newberg, Ind. in 1829 on the Ohio river. He was a prosperous merchant and postman there until 1849, when he moved his family to Sequin, Texas by the Ohio, Mississippi, and Red rivers, on flat boats, and wagon train, that had been carried on the flat boats.

Matthew Roger, son of Abner, married Rachel Harness in Warrick, Co. Ind. 1848. They rode the boats to Tex. with one baby. They had 13 more born in Texas.

Notes taken from a letter written by Rachel at age 90

Oct. 1, 1849. Abner and Rachels' family, and a number of friends started from Newberg, Ind. on the Ohio, river. Father, Abner Luce and his family, his sons' Matthew R., Sam, Frank, and David, all grown, and Lafette age 12.

The ladies were, Rachel, her mother in law, and Misses Elizabeth, and Arimenta Luce.

My daughter, Mrs A.A. Ellison of San Antino are the only ones living now.

Father Luce had 3 flat boats, he hired several hands to come with us. One colored servant. One boat was for livestock and produce, which was sold at New Orleans.

He rented a field for the 100 horses. He had hoped to sell them but the

Texans preferred their ponies to fine horses. In the fall of 1850 we moved to Lockhart, Tex. I have been here every since.

Georgia Crosthwaite said we had a cousin, William Luce she had visited in Tex. before he died there.

She said the Luces' had a peculiar hereditary strain that showed up in their teeth of some of the decendants. Duff Green Simmons had it. Their teeth were like jaw teeth all the way around, even in front. They were smaller in front and thinner than the big jaw teeth, but set together the same way. They didn't over lap each other like most people's front teeth do.

William Luce had a son with the same kind of teeth. Duff Green still had all of his when he died at age 70, and they were all good. My father's were like that some, and he had all but one when he died at age 88.

Muhlenberg Co. census of 1830

William Luce. 1 male age (20 under 30) this was himself.

1 male, (60 under 70) maybe his father. 1 female, (15 under 20) 1 female, (30 under 40).

Jacob Luce, 2 males, (15 under 20) 2 males, (20 under 30). And 1 female, (20 under 30)

1840 census

Jacob Luce, 2 males (10 under 15). 1 female (30 under 40). 2 females, under 5, and 5 under 10.

William Luce, 1 male (20 under 30). 1 male, (70 under 80)

Muhlenberg slave owners of 1850

Isaac Luce, 1 female age 33, black

In Butler Co. Isaac Luce married Charity Elliot, Aug. 3, 1835. He married Delila Elliott Aug. 16, 1830. They are buried at Midway, in Butler Co.

Mr. Edward Manley said Jacob Luce married Rhiana Buckles. He is the son of Wm. The Buckles owned a mill of some kind on Mud river. They married, 2/18/1827. Jacob drew a map for the plan of Skilesville, that is recorded at Greenville, in a deed book covering two pages, I have a copy of.

I am sure I have pictures of Luces' but no one living can identify them. They were my grandmother's.

On the grand jury of Muhlenberg Co. of July 23, 1799, at the court house was William Luce.

In Midway Cemetary on highway 70 east of Rochester.

William Luce, died July, 22, 1813. Age about 76. (born maybe 1737). Buried on his left side, Ann Luce (maybe Green) consort of William Luce, Died Sept. 8, 1836. Age about, 63. (born about 1773)

J. L. Luce, Mar. 19, 1821, age 32. D. L. Luce, died Apr. 18, 1821. Age 18.

Charity Luce, born Dec. 21, 1815. Died Oct. 19, 1851. I. Elander Luce died Jan. 2, 1813. 11, yrs. 1, mo. 13, days.

On the right of William, is Delila Luce, died Mar. 7, 1833. age 22, yrs. 9, mo.

Next is Nancy Luce Simmons, born Aug. 25, 1811. died Mar. 25, 1845.

Johnathan Luce, son of Wm. died on a boat on Green river of cholera, and was taken off and buried in a field near Owensboro. The Captain orded to take him off at once. The grave is lost to cultivation.

The Luces' owned a house in Skilesville, that was supposed to be haunted. They could never get rid of the ghost. It was told that Dr. John Simmons was staying there one night to run them off, instead the hants threw him out of bed and he left for other places.

I remember my grandfather, Jim Henry Knight, telling about staying in the house and sleeping up stairs and the cover would pull off of him all night. I don't know where the house was, now they say the third lock keeper house is haunted so maybe they moved across the river now.

There is no one in this area now by the name of Luce. I am one of the great great grand children. I now live on part of the Wm. Luce farm conveyed to Richard Keen, and by Muhlenberg Co. sheriff to Ephram Brank, and sold to John F. and Radney Mack Knight. June 25, 1855, 421 acres for \$ 1200.00 .

The Indians were here long before the Luces came, and survived on a lot less.

In deed book 2 page 267 is William Luce and wife, Nancy, 100 acres on Mud River. So this makes Wm.'s wife's first name, Nancy. This deed dated, 1808.

This is not to be a roots story, but since slavery was at the time of some of my subjects legal, I shall state some of the facts as I found them. The very word, slavery, boggles my mind, for I cannot understand how people can be cruel to people, "God forbid".

I sincerely hope none of my people were ever guilty of that. I never heard of it, but these things weren't talked much.

In the will of William Simmons he willed to his son Richard, a negro man named Nero, a girl Claripa and her 6mo old child, Squire, also a woman named Patsy to take care of.

This was written in 1845. When he became owner of these people I don't know. He owned at least one woman slave that had a child named Kudge, (maybe a nickname) born about 1843.

I have done quite a lot of research on Kudge Simmons. His name was John or he had a brother, John. My dates don't come out right.

Richard's wife died in 1845 leaving a small child, named John, who nursed the black woman with Kudge. They were called wet nurses.

Kudge was loved by the Simmons family. After he was free, he moved to the Rockport and Paradise area. My grandfather, Jim Henry Knight and wife Isabella Simmons visited him and he with them for years.

He would never eat at the table with them. When they ask him he refused. This was a custom to eat separated from whites.

In the Paradise census of July, 1, 1870, I found Jno. Simmons, 37, black, born in Va. A labor on farm. Personal property, \$400. Wife Mary, 33, 6 children.

His mother could have been born in Va. This and the age I can't explain. He is listed next door to Duff G. Simmons, so he must have been working for him after he was free in 1865.

In the colored school records of Muhlenberg, July 3, 1876. District #3, Mercers Station. Trustee: John Simmons.

Duff G. had left Ky. in 1874. So he had moved to another job, (maybe the mines) I didn't pursue him further, but I am led to believe that John and the boy the Simmons family fondly called Kudge are the same, if not only God knows.

Also listed in slave owners of Muhlenberg, Co. Aug. 1, 1850 was Isaac Luce, owned 1 female, black age 33.

I was surprised at the mulattoes that were listed to different people. Shame on these men.

I had been told by family members that Knights never owned slaves, but in this same will of William Simmons he gave to his daughter Mary, Wife of Radney Knight 2 slaves. What became of them, I have never found a record. My grandfather should have known this but he never talked it to my knowing.

In the area of Skilesville several people owned slaves in the early 1800s. Pearl Knight told me she knew a black man at Skilesville about 1900, that lived there. His name was George Brewer, he was an old man then and was a former slave of Dock Brewer's family, that run the carding mill there. After he was free he still worked for them.

She also knew a John Robinson, there a former slave. His girl, Laura married Nat Porter. John was the father of Bill Robinson that lived there in the 1920s. A man by the name of Myers lived in the area, that was known by his meanness to his slaves. His farm joined my great grandfather's farm. The Knight boys worked just across the line from where his slaves worked.

I have heard my grandfather tell of hearing the slaves hollering and begging for mercy from the cruel treatment he was giving them. Grandpa said one night the Knight boys, Sam, John, Mart and he heard two of them hollering and screaming, and they went to the barn where Myers had them sitting over a pole with weights on their feet hanging on each side of the pole.

They took them down and to the house and made him feed them and told him to never do it again. There was no law to protect slaves and it was against the law for them to take them down.

At another time they were working by a boy named Sam. He was having to work with a ball and chain fastened to his ankle. He had tried to run away from the cruel treatment. The ankle had become infected and maggots were in it.

The Knight boys took the chain off and hid him until it healed. They took him to Green river, and gave him food to take with him, and \$5.00, and told him to follow the river and he would come to Cairo, Ill. and he would be free there.

They never heard of him again. They could have been in serious trouble for this if found out. They never told it until after slavery ended.

The Studebakers owned slaves. One of the girls said, it cost too much to keep them that their work didn't pay for their keeps. This was probably the reason no more people around here had them. In the cotton plantations it was a different story, some owners had over a hundred.

The late Walter Arendell, told me a story about slaves that were working on the lock walls above the dam at Rochester lock. They were on a barge tied above the dam. For some reason the barge broke loose and went over the dam. They got scared and jumped out and drowned, because they couldn't swim.

If they had stayed on the barge they would have been safe, for it didn't sink. The date I have from another source of this is Nov. 15, 1839. The dam was completed in 1838. So they would have been finishing the wall above the dam.

Twenty bodies were hauled in a wagon to Richard Simmons' farm, near old Simmons Chaple church and buried on the left side of the road, now in front of Union Chaple church, outside side the fence. When the ground was worked there in recent years the grave outlines were visible. I can remember rock headstones there when I was young.

This was the first cemetery at Simmons Chaple, for white people didn't start a cemetery there until James Myres born, 1854 and died, 1855, became the first grave in the white cemetery. Richard Simmons still lived there then.

I have no record of who the black men were, but some of them probably belonged to Richard. One thing is certain twenty black slaves were set free, and I sure hope for a better place. There is probably more buried there than them, for it was the only black cemetery near.

There is a picnic table on this area now. The Angels must have rejoiced the day the black people were freed from slavery. If they really were.

There was a place in the Riverside and Paradise area known as "Nigger Ridge". It seems that several black people settled there after they were free. There is a cemetery there known as the Smith cemetery. It has been stripped around for coal now.

The slaves of Israel J. Studebaker are buried at his feet, in the old Studebaker cemetery on his old farm.

My grandfather, Jim Henry Knight, was a constable and a magistrate. I found an old law book stored in a box in the barn loft, that belonged to him. He was born in 1843. This book of laws was made before then and probably used until slavery ended in 1865.

The earliest date reference I found in the book was, 1809 to 1847, but it could have been in use before then. The back was gone so it had no copyright date, and British money was still in use for part of the laws.

This book may have belonged to Jim Henry's father, and just have been handed down to him, for he was young when slavery ended.

Some of the laws listed

Every person descended from progenitors part white and part black, who have $\frac{1}{4}$ Negro blood, shall be called a mulatto.

An act of 1846 said any free negro or mulatto migrating into the state of Ky. or being transported, through the state and remaining for 30 days was subject to arrest and being brought before the justice of the peace. The justice of the peace was to cause a jury to be empaneled to hear the evidence.

They had to pay the state \$500. within 90 days or be sold at auction to the highest bidder. If any free colored person harbored such a runaway person he would be sold at auction.

An act of 1835: A sum of money should be paid by the owner to anyone arresting any run away slave, and holding him for the owner. If taken in the county, he belonged \$10. another Co. \$20. Out of state, not less than \$30.00, and not over \$100.

The law for Sabbath breaking in this book is ten shillings for every offence by anyone.

For hiding slaves in your house, a search warrant could be issued. If found guilty, the penalty was confinement in the pen for not less than 2yrs or more than 20. By either white person, negro, or mulatto.

The laws made under Great Britain and handed down. Slaves convicted of murder, rape of white woman, robbery, burglary, all should suffer death.

Any slave of any other offence, or being accessory to the fact shall be sentenced to receive on his or her back at the public whipping post, any number of lashes not exceeding thirty nine. The number being determined by a justice of the peace.

If he consulted or advised a murder he could be punished by any number of stripes, not to exceed 100. There are other laws just as cruel.

If a owner killed a slave hardly any thing was done about it. It was hard to prove.

My Dad said he was told a slave floated in the backwater down here in Daniels Run creek. He was buried there on the creek bank. If one came up missing it was never anything done about it.

Of all the bad things that ever happened in our country, I believe slavery was the worst.

Mary Annie (Polly) Baugh Knight

According to a story written by Del Palmer to a magazine and book of the Baugh family, they came to Logan Co. Ky. in 1816 or 1817.

John Baugh and his part Cherokee wife, Elizabeth, came through Tenn. from South Carolina to Ky. He was originally from Virginia. He met her in S.C. and they married there, and came to Logan Co. looking for better land to settle on.

The place they settled on later became "Baugh Station". It is by the L. & N. railroad and U.S. highway 431, N. of Lewisburg, Ky. Wolf Lick creek runs through the farm. The old house still stands I am told, a two story front built on the original back part.

Baugh Station was once a thriving business place about 1880 & 1898. There was a blacksmith shop, stop for passenger trains, Post Office, tie yard, a grocery, dry goods, and general store combined in the same building. It was run by George Nelson Baugh, the youngest son of John and Elizabeth.

George married Margaret Virginia Booker in 1853. Her family came from Tenn. She was married at age 13 and had 14 children. They lived there several yrs. The last Baughs left there about 1950. It is grown up and none lives close now. A cemetery is close known, as the Fitzhugh cemetery, there lies some of the older Baugh family.

James Baugh, was born Sept. 30, 1823. He married Nancy Jane Miller. I was told they were the parents of Bunnie Baugh Mullen and Lorene Smith, but they must be grand parents according to the age s. Bunnie is dead but Lorene is living. She is past age 80.

Greenville Marriage Book

S.W. Baugh, (maybe Samuel) age 45, to Mary A. Kennedy, age 27, at S.W. Baughs, Nov. 25, 1873 in presence of William Simmons & Samuel F. Knight.

Signed, Eliza A. Davis. Second marriage of both.

Sam Baugh was a carpenter around Rochester and helped build Union Chapel Church.

Simeon Baugh lived near Rochester and made furniture, Estil Knight has a walnut clothes press that my Dad said was made by Sim Baugh. There was other pieces in the family, probably made by him.

Frances Baugh married, A.A. Smith, and was the mother of Delia Howerton, the wife of Limuel Howerton. They are buried at Simmons Chapel. They had three children, Fannie, Vina, and John. John was killed in world war 1. They are buried there too.

Fannie, married Marion Carathers, they had five children, Vina was married to Horton Sumner, they had four children.

John and Elizabeth Baugh's Family

The Father and Mother Of Mary Annie (Polly) Baugh Knight

The Baugh Family Bible Of Bunnie Baugh Mullen Of Drakesboro, Ky.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| (1) Susan Baugh, born Sept. 28, 1817 | |
| (2) Polly, " " Aug. 25, 1819 | Married, John F. Knight |
| (3) Frances " " June 11, 1823. | " A. A. Smith |
| (4) James " " Sept. 30, 1823 | " Nancy Jane Miller (one of these is I |
| (5) Eliza " " Sept. 2, 1825 | |
| (6) Simeon " " Mar. 8, 1828 | " Pauline Mann July 6, 1854 at Proctor |
- residence in Rochester, Ky. by H. B. Wiggins
- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| (7) Samuel " " Aug. 3, 1834 | " Cathrine Brown |
| (8) Tabatha A " " Aug. 1832 | " Jessie Mann Died Jan. 18, 1922 (?) |
| (9) John " " Mar. 7, 1830 | |
| (10) Sarah " " Mar. 1, 1832 | |
| (11) George " youngest, no date on him. He married Mary Virginia Booker 1853 | |
- she was 13 and had 14 children.
 Mary named 4 of her boys after her brothers. James, John, Samuel Frances, and George. They were Knight names too.

1880 Census

Mary Baugh, age 60, born in Ky. Father, Virginia, Mother, North Carolina

Butler Co. Census 1850

Listed, Mary J. Baughe, age 16 living with J. F. Knight and Polly. Who this Mary is I'm not sure, her birth date would be 1834. Sometimes Baugh was spelled an e last.

Old Rock Spring Church Book of 1839

Listed, is 2 Mary Knights'. Liza Baugh, Frances Baugh, and Elizabeth Baugh that died 1842. Rock Spring is across the hills from Baughs Sta.

Bunnie Baughs' record

Elizabeth Baugh, is buried at Terry graveyard, only a rock headstone. She was born May 6, 1784, died Apr. 1880. This date does not correspond to the above date, but must be the same person.

In records at Russelville library,

Just one sentence, Children of Elizabeth Baugh--Polly Baugh, born Aug. 25, 1819. This date is right for our Polly

INFORMATION SINCE WRITING THE BOOK

Jessie Simmons Dyce

I had been told by my Dad that Dr. John Luce Simmons had a daughter by his third wife, Ethel Galbraith, and her name was Jessie. I didn't know who she had married or where she lived, so I had no name to look for. I ask and look for her for over twenty years.

May 30, 1981, I attended a gathering at Rock Spring cemetery and ask a Mr. Forey if he knew her, he said she lived at Beechland about two miles from there. I didn't have time to go on then, but it was so hard to wait to find her. I had looked so long.

June 30, 1981

Early in the morning Cleo Jernigan and I go out to find Jessie. I was so anxious to see her, I had tried to picture in my mind what she would look like, and if she would want to see us, or claim kin to us, and how to approach her, for she had never heard of us.

I finally came up with an old woman, that was fat and wouldn't want to see us. I drove into the drive I was directed to and a woman was mowing the yard. A spry little woman with a cap and shorts on came around the house to meet me. I ask her if she was Jessie Dyce, and she said, "yes". I told her I was the grand-daughter of Isabell Simmons Knight. She said, "oh you are aunt Bells' grand-daughter", came to me and said, "let me hug you", and that wiped away all the years we had never known one another existed.

The woman mowing was her daughter, Ila Milam, her only child. We had a nice visit with them, and again in Jan. 1984.

Jessie's Story

Jessie Louise Simmons Dyce was the only child of John Luce and Ethel G. Simmons, she was born Oct. 25, 1902. Her father died when she was eleven, her mother raised her near Beechland. She married Thomas Porter and had one child, Ila, they lived away a while and came back to Beechland.

Jessie is the only Simmons living of her generation in Ky. I would guess any where. She is the grand-daughter of Richard H. and Nancy Luce Simmons. Also of William and Nancy Luce. The rest of us are great-grandchildren. She and Ila favor me and Cleo and my Dad's family.

Jessie was so young when her father died, she doesn't know much about his family. She said the Simmons came from Va. That would make William, her grand father come from there to N.C. and to Ky.

Dr. John attended medical school at the University of Louisville Ky. from 1862 to 1866. Dr. Strother of Rochester, paid for his schooling. There was a Dr. W.C. Strother at Rochester, and a Dr. John F. at Skilesville, in 1865. He was married to Mary Elizabeth Simmons. She died in 1863. She must have been John's cousin. It wasn't his sister Mary.

Jessie said, Dr John was nursed by the slave woman, Clara, it is spelled Claripha in a will of William. She also said, Clara's sons' name was Zachary. My records shows it was John, (Kudga) a nickname. He may have changed it after he was free. She said Richard Simmons told Clara if she would marry the boy for him after his wife, Nancy died he would free her, and he did. She stayed stayed on with the family to help raise him. She is probably buried at Simmons Chaple Black cemetary.

Jessie said, Jessie Simmons Galloway of Texas, and aunt Melissa Craig of Rochester, came and lived with Dr. John a while. A John of Tex. that married Maude Willcut, visited them. This must have been her uncle Johnathan. There is a white marble hitching post in her yard that was given to her by Dr. Laslye of Lewisberg, Ky. a friend of Dr. John. It has a horse carved on it.

Military warrents of Logan Co.

William Simmons, 233 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, warrent 1280.7 yrs soldier, Va. line, 6-28-1783.

William H. Simmons, 250 acres, book 3-page 447- 4/12/51 maybe 1851 ?
This must be another William.

Another record of William Simmons and wife, Nancy Duff, property. That would separate the two Nancy's I have heard of and leave Nancy Green the wife of William Luce. The two grand other's of Duff Green Simmons the son of Richard Simmons. (see Page 27-8).

Jessie's daughter, Ella is married to Edwin Wilam and has 3 children. They live at Beechland.

Dr. John, had a mole to come on his ear, he cut it while shaving and it never healed and caused a cancer that killed him.

Sand Spring cemetary

Dr. J. I. Simmons, Born, Mar. 10, 1844. Died Oct. 7, 1912

Epitaph

We can not tell, who next may fall beneath thy chastening Rod. One must be first, but let us all prepare to meet our God.

First Wife

Amelia J. Simmons, born, July, 14, 1866 Died July, 25, 1892

Epitaph

Weep not my husband and friends for us, for we are waiting at the Beautiful Gate for thee.

Son

Strother, Son of J. I. and A. J. Simmons. Born and died July 14, 1892

Epitaph

It was an angel that visited the green earth and took a flower away.
2nd wife and sister of Amelia

Carrie J. Simmons, wife of John L. Born July 15, 1873 Died Dec. 11, 1900.

A light from our household is gone, a voice we loved is stilled.
A place is vacant in our home which never can be filled

ROCK SPRING CHURCH

Turn right off highway 70 south of Rochester, on 106 and go to Quality, on 106, turn right and go to a cemetery on the left side of a hill. Then up the hill to Rock Spring Church. This was once called Gravel Town, from the gravel on the hill that is quarried near by. Behind the church in a wooded area near by is a spring flowing from the rock of the hill. It is Rock Spring, hence the name of the Church, Rock Spring Missionary Baptist.

In the early settlement this area was a Presbyterian church named, Concord. On July 7, 1834 a group of members split from it and built a log Missionary Baptist church across the road from where it now is. When it got old they built the one there now.

The church has been remodeled now with a basement and Sunday School rooms. It is a pretty little country church, it don't have many members that attend it now but a faithful few have kept it there.

On Sunday, July 2, 1984 they celebrated their 150 year anniversary, with a homecoming. Cleo Jernigan and I went, expecting to see old relatives but, I think we were the only ones there. We left at noon dissatisfied, for we wanted to see them so bad. I think they are all moved and the younger generation don't come back. Several Knights' are buried there.

On Jan. 9, 1984 we visited James Grice and wife. He is a deacon and clerk of the church. He had the first record book of Rock Spring, dated July 7, 1834. It was so old and worn I was afraid to turn the pages I might tear it. I wanted to cry when I read the business, dates and names of so long ago people that were trying to serve the Lord, and worship the best they knew how.

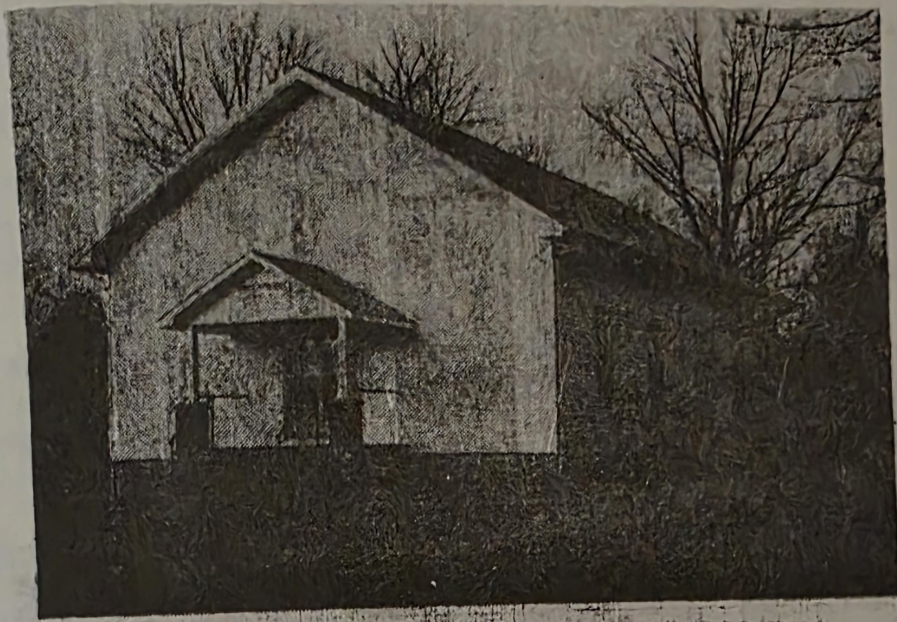
Most of the members were my ancestors. Thank God for my heritage. I am told Wm. Griffin Knight donated the ground for the church. It is on part of the farm owned by Radney Knight, his father. My great-great grandpa.

Names copied from Rock Spring church Book Page, 37

Wm. Griffin Knight--July 15, 1863. John Knight, Nov. 21, 1849. George Knight, no date. Mary Knight, Abbigale Knight. Elizabeth Knight Forgy? died 1948. Mary Knight, either Johns' wife or sister. William Knight. Malinda Knight. Andrew Knight. Nancy Jane Knight. Part of these are Radneys' children.

Liza Baugh, Frances Baugh Smith, Elizabeth Baugh, died 1842. She is my great great grandmother I think, the mother of John Knights' wife Mary. Part of these may be charter members.

James Grice owns the Wm. Griffin K. farm. There is a large log barn on the farm that he thinks may be the old church. The logs are from large trees. It sets on a hill of solid rock that looks like hot iron ore was poured over it. Mud River runs about half way around the farm, and it is known as the run Around farm. This is part of the Radney farm. He and part of his family are buried there on the hillside. There are about 30 graves there, three tombstones, and some rock markers.



Rock Spring Church 1984, est. 1884.
Butler Co.



Sand Spring Church, June 11, 1978.
Now abandoned. Dr. John Simmons
and family buried there. Butler
Co., near Rock Spring Church.

Kentucky

Land Grants in the Co. court orders, 1836 to 1924

Grantee	Acres	Book	Page	Date	County	water bnd.
Wm. H. Simmons	60	7	82	3/29/1840	Logan	Muddy, Cr.
Wm. H. Simmons	365	7	84	7/30/1840	"	" River
Richard Simmons	700	8	309	5/4/1841	Muhl.	" "
I. P. Simmons	100	15	202	3/1/1845	Logan	" "
Alex Simmons	70	18	540	2/11/1846	Edmonson	
Alex "	50	22	350	11/5/ "	"	Green R.
Alfred Simmons	108	22	86	5/20/46	Warren	Drakes C.
Elisha Simmons	32	22	190	2/17/47	Bullit	
Robert Simmons	180	27	269	6/4/47	Rockcastle	Dry C.
John G. Simmons	40	28	309	4/27/49	Barren	Trace. C
Wm. H. Simmons	250	34	447	4/14/51	Logan	Muddy R.
Jordon Simmons	10	44	654	6/1/55	Barren	Trace C.
" "	140	44	655	6/1/55	"	Little C.
Duff Green Simmons	43	63	255	6/7/62	Muhl.	Andrews Br.
" " "	62	on Green R. to P. M. Knight, near Riverside				
" " "	62	" Daniels Run to Charles Sullivan				

Richard H. Simmons Property Listed at Greenville Ky.

Richard H. Simmons	on Mud and Green R.	100 acres
" " "	" " " " "	140 "
" " "	" " " " "	62 " To Minerva J. Baker Simmons
" " "	Division of land with Ephram M. Brank on Green River	
" " "	near Green R. to Wm. Williams	
" " "	2 acres to Simmons Chaple, M. E. So. Church and cemetery.	
" " "	5 lots in Skilesville to Jessie G. Craig	

There is more deeds to Richard and from him.

Average land value in Muhlenberg Co. in 1846 was \$1.93 per acre. I suppose he was dealing in real estate.

(1) Green, The name of Nancy Elizabeth Luce's mother before marriage. Nancy E. Luce was the daughter of William and Ann Green Luce, Born Jan. 25, 1811.

Aunt Nan Simmons Smith said in 1952 that Puff Green Simmons was named for his two grandmothers' sur name. Green was the sur name of the mother of his mother, Nancy E. Luce Simmons. The Puff, would be his grandmother, Nancy Puff Simmons the wife of William Simmons

(2) The 1860 census of Skilesville, Puff G. Simmons, 35, Farmer, real estate, \$700, Personal, \$200. Wife Minerva Jane, 30, born in Ky. Nancy I. 12, Johnathan, 9. Philip, 5. Kate, 3. Culbert, 2, female.

(3) Johnathan Luce Simmons born 1837. He was 23, in 1850 census, said to be a soldier in Union army of Civil War. He came out a Captain, and married a widow from Bowling Green or Greenville, Ky. He moved to east Texas and died there.

(4) Knight, is definitely a English name
1850 Census
Epiran Knight age 55. Wife Emma, 26, born in England, father and mother too.
son, King age 30. Born in Ky. Richard, 26. Andy J. 15. Della, 11. Lizzie, 8
Could this be Radneys' brother. The children would be step children of Emma.

(5)
James M. Forgy, 24 blacksmith, real estate value \$175.
wife Elizabeth, 18
George W. Knight, 20. Elizabeths' brother. They are children of Radney and are buried in Butler Co. Near Rock Spring.

(6) Daniel Knight, 26 works on farm. Born, Ky. father and mother too.
wife Eliza M. 31, born in Ky. father and mother too.

(7)
Rust, Benjamin 30, Farmer. Value of Real estate value, \$1500. Personal, \$500.
Drewery Cox, 22, Agnes F. Cox 18. Alcie E. Cox. Mann 22, F. Domestic, Born Ky.

In home of Levi Cowin, Sarah Rust, 15. Born in Ky.
Richard Rust 22, teamster, Born Ky.

Daniel Rust, 56, farmer, value of real estate, \$400. Personal, \$200. Born Va.
Nacmi, 48, domestic, Born Va. John D. age 4. Born Ky.

Simmons Chapel

Miss Georgia Draper returned home last Thursday from Ohio county where she has been teaching school for the last five months.

Miss Mattie Draper came home Thursday from Taylor Mines where she has been visiting her sister since Christmas.

Miss Mattie Hawker went to her home in Ohio county last week. She has been visiting her sister, Mrs. Arrena Draper for some time.

Miss M. T. Herald, Miss Gleney McKinney and Miss Manery Brown all of Butler County visited Mrs. Marthy Williams last Saturday.

Mr. W. B. Cox, our Constable, got so interested with his wife's new sewing machine that he forgot to go to Skilesville for two weeks.

The Rev. Crow preached a long and interesting sermon to a large and attentive congregation last Sunday.

Miss—Abbott, of Ohio county, visited her sister, Mrs. Barney Foole, last Sunday.

Mr. Dobbs bought several head of cattle last week.

The farmers are getting along pretty well breaking ground and planting corn.

Mr. J. F. Hays, of Rochester sent two teams to haul saw-logs to Green river.

Thu. Apr 11 1887
JOHN LOAM.

Studebakers Drop 'Stude' in 1821

By EDWARD M. MANLEY
Muhlenberg County Court orders for 1821 were:

October—John Knight appeared in court and proved he was heir at law of Henry F. Forsythe, deceased, while in service of the United States. Last will and testament of James Campbell presented in court. William McNary lists his taxation for 1821. Jacob S. Baker (Studebaker) exhibited his account for being guardian to Peter S. Baker, Jr., son of Peter, Sr., deceased. The Studebaker families were now dropping the "Stude" from their name and using the letter "S" as a middle initial. James Rice lists his taxation. Commissioners were appointed to settle with William Williams, administrator for James Wood, deceased. David Gish had died. Jesse Everly and James Nicholas appointed inspectors of tobacco.

ED, TEXAS, THURSDAY, AUG

Return from Three Weeks Trip in Southern States

W. H. Crosthwaite and daughters, Alwilda and Elizabeth of Weatherford, and Georgia of Long Beach, California, have just returned from a three week's vacation through the Southern States.

They stopped first in Columbia, Tennessee and attended a Crosthwaite reunion at Pleasant Garden Cumberland Presbyterian Church, near Lawrenceburg. Mr. Crosthwaite was christened in this church ninety-one years ago, and the land on which the original church was built was donated in the early 1800's by his grandfather, John Newton Crosthwaite.

In Kentucky they revisited old Simmons Chapel on Green River, and made a "sentimental journey" to Owensboro, where the wagon-train of Duff Green Simmons, Sr., father of the late Mrs. Kate Crosthwaite, crossed the Ohio River on a flat boat on the way to Texas in 1874. In Bardstown, they had breakfast at Talbot's Tavern, built in 1779 and which has not closed its doors since that time.

Union Chapel Church
Subscription List for
Union Chapel Church
General Baptist
Denomination
J. & Wood \$1.50
Sarah Camfield 5.00
Sam Baugh 5.00
Sam Rensselaer Royie 5.00
By J. Henry Knight 1898

SPEAKING OF DESCENDANTS

THE MONKEYS DISGRACE

Three monkeys sat in a cocoanut tree
Discussing things as they're said to be.
Said one to the other, "Now listen, you two,
There's a certain rumor that can't be true;
That man descended from our noble race.
The very idea is a disgrace.
No monkey ever deserted his wife,
Starved her babies and ruined her life;
And you've never known a mother monk
To leave her babies with others to bunk,
Till they scarcely know who is their mother.
And another thing you'll never see;
A monk build a fence 'round a cocoanut tree
And let the cocoanuts go to waste
Forbidding all other monks to taste.
Why, if I put a fence around a tree,
Starvation will force you to steal from me.
Here's another thing a monk won't do;
Go out at night and get on a stew,
Or use a gun or club or knife
To take some other monkey's life,
Yes, man descended, the ornery cuss;
But, brother, he didn't descend from us! "

bought the home place after R.H. Simmons died

9201 Imperial Ave.
Garden Grove, Calif.

4 January 1959

Dear Carmon,

Here is a copy of an old letter written in 1909 by your and my Great-Aunt Melissa (Craig) Simmons to My Uncle Philip Russell Simmons, Mama's older brother. As I typed at the top of the sheet, the old letter was found among some keepsakes of my Aunt Nan (Simmons) Smith, a few months ago when three of Aunt Nan's daughters sorted over some of Aunt Nan's things. As the letter was written to Uncle Phil, they gave it to his two daughters, Almaryne (Simmons) Field and Lorita (Simmons) Cook, but lent it to us Crosthwaite girls for reading. We passed it on to Rita and Almaryne.

I made enough copies to send one to Cousin Wig. He knew Great-Aunt Melissa better than any of us in Texas did. I don't know if any of us ever saw her. If anyone did, maybe she was still living when Rita and Almaryne visited back there their first time—I don't remember what year. I thought Cousin Wig would enjoy reading about the people mentioned in the letter because he would know them all. If he can, I'd like him to explain what Great-Aunt Melissa meant by some things she wrote. Incidentally, what did he call her? Not Melissa I'm sure. Aunt Lis? *Aunt Lis*

These are some questions that come to my mind. If Cousin Wig can answer some of them, I'll appreciate your writing me what he says. *Henry - Bill died after Henry*

In 1909, what "dear ones" had just died—if that is what she meant by *Henry's wife* hard toil laid down incomplete? Who is Emma? Who is Otis? *Henry's wife* Ditto for Virgil Sherrod, Mildred Craig, and Cousin Albin Elliott? *Henry's wife* What was the name of Uncle Pink Pool's wife and how were we related to *Henry's wife* them? Were we kin. to Aunt Lizzie Brewer, or was she just someone that *Henry's wife* everybody called "aunt"? Was Nannie Pool the daughter of Uncle Pink Pool? *Henry's wife* *otie died a short while ago in Calif*

I was interested in her writing that Sam Knight was on a trade for "Papa Simmons" old farm. I judge she meant her father-in-law's farm, just south (not south—I don't know what direction, but just beyond) of old Simmons Chapel church, now the Union Baptist. This is the farm that belonged to your and my Great-grandpa Richard H. Simmons, Sr. *NO* If this is the farm she meant, Uncle Sam Knight didn't buy it, did he? Seems you all, or maybe Cousin Ode Knight Smith, has told me Sam bought the old Israel J. Baker home. Right? *owned before he left and bought it back from son Dal. Port of it* Does Cousin Wig know what became of Henry Simmons' two children mentioned in this letter, Erle and Cleo? Does he know what year Aunt Melissa died? Where she is buried? *Port of it* Incidentally, I don't believe he ever told me where his mother, my Great-Aunt Belle, is buried? I'm really full of questions today. *Simmons Chapel*

I hope all of you are well and able to stand the severe winter. Right here, we haven't had any rain yet, hardly any cold weather. Funny weather all over.

Love to each one, with a wish for better health in 1959.

Georgia Crosthwaite

Pink Pool owned farm of R.H. Simmons where Fred Fleming lives bought by Oaf K. later

He & Bill Williams

Port of it was bought by Oaf K. later

Not married.

William Emma Simmons died Sept. 14-1905.

Henry Simmons died June 1905.

Emma was Henry's wife.

Dick her fell out over old furniture

Never made up

The following is a copy of an old letter found among the keepsakes of Aunt Nan Smith (Nancy Elizabeth Simmons Smith, 1858-1957) and recently lent by Cousin-in-law Chloe (Fino) Smith for copying. As much of the original form has been preserved as possible (paragraphing added). G. Crosthwaite, 12-25-58

C
O
P
Y

Rochester Ky
Apr 6 1909

Dr. Simmons

My Dear Nephew,

I was pleasantly surprised, to receive your card. Concluded I was forgotten, or Labled and Laid on the shelf. Well son we are all in very good health! except our colds, caused from spring weather which is very changeable, with high winds.

Dick is trying to finish up the business, and make safe the hard toil, of the dear ones that had to lay it down incomplete. I think if he can have his health will succeed in getting it pretty well straightened up this year. The land is pretty well cleared up, has the rise of 300 A. under cultivation, will raise corn and tobacco. Emma and I had to move to Rochester so we could give the houses to tenants. We have six very good houses on the farm.

Otie is Okla. Went out there on act. of her childrens health. Consumption in both of them. We thought her baby would die, but she writes me that he is much better, and her health is just perfect, never was as stout and strong in her life. Has been keeping boarding house. Virgil Sherrod and Mildred Craig are with her. Cousin Albin Elliott ^{town} Cousin lives in Granite, Okla. All of them went on a visit, Liked so well, went to work, and are there yet. Otie says if she could find work over in Texas to clear expenses, would visit you before she comes home. Guess you will hear from her soon.

Jim and Bell K— are in wretched health. You Uncle John has been near death, with Erysipelas. Was convelecing slowly last news. Uncle Pink Pool is all most blind, and so deaf. Very feeble. Aunt Lizzie Brewer ^{another} Doc Brewer is 85 and good company yet. Sam K— moved to Okla. but is now on a trade for Papa Simmons old farm. Says he must get back. If I was to emigrate, it would be near the coast, in Galveston. Wish you would go down there to live and let me visit you. Sure enough, Phil, if Richard and I ever get things straight, so we can leave for a while, we are coming to Texas for a nice long visit. I try to hide my trouble from my family and friends and live for the living. Here is Henrys babies, Ercie and Cleo. He left them in Dicks care.

Love to all our people and let me hear of you once in a while. Dick said to give you his "best." Rebuilding his telephone line, Not long since, the Lightning tore it all to pieces and killed one of our men. Was talking to his wife over to M. Taylor's, all on one Line.

With much love

(signed) Lissie Simmons

P.S.

Nannie Pool (Tool?) married a Mister Whitesarver (?) and lives in Gunnison, Miss. Close to you maybe. ^{first marriage} died in asylum

This "Lissie" Simmons was Melissa (Graig) Simmons, wife of Richard H. Simmons, Jr., he being shot in 1878. When Aunt Nan Smith was a little girl, she stayed a while in the home of her Uncle Dick and Aunt Melissa, and went to school in Rochester, Ky. ^{1875-1879. Died in California} Otis Simmons, daughter of Richard H. Halloway, ^{born Feb. 13 - 1867. died of 18-1933.} married Sam Halloway.

KNIGHTS AND SIMMONS FROM MUREL ROUSEE RECORDS

I'm sure there is a connection to these families, but unknown by me at this time.

" Bedford county Tennessee"

The old Knight Camp ground near Shelbyville and the Knights About three miles south of Shelbyville is located on an old land mark known as "Knight's Camp Ground". Named from the fact that it was the spot on which in the early days of Shelbyville and Bedford Co. one Rev. Wm. Knight, held forth in a camp meeting, through many years, and according to tradition drew attention from far distances as well as attendants.

About a half mile from the camp ground is the little cemetery, overgrown with under brush and briars, where Rev. William Knight and his wife's partner, Elizabeth, is buried.

The inscriptions reads as follows.

William Knight age, 77 Born, 1762. Died Mar. 14, 1839.

Elizabeth Knight, age, 71. Born, 1768. Died Nov. 11, 1839.

Today the name Knight is not recognized by the residents. It would seem that no person there remembers the family.

William Knight and his wife, Elizabeth were probably married in Virginia, because the only two children they had we know about were born there.

Gabriel B. Knight, born in Va. in 1806

Obediah Woodson Knight born in Va. in 1808

These two sons went to Texas and settled on land which is now part of Dallas and raised children there playing important roles in the progress of a new country. They contributed much to Dallas Tx.

Winchester, Va. where a colony had already been planted on a patent issued to Josit Hite, a German, William Duff, his nephew, Robert Green a Welshman, the first settlement west of the Blue Ridge mountains
Sally Fry married John Green.

Col. Lewis Willis had a daughter, Annie who married Duff Green. And was the mother of Willis Green, the second clerk of Lincoln Co. Ky. and a member of the convention of 1785-88. Annie died near Danville in 1820 and is buried at Old Reed Fort,

Bullitt Co. Ky.

Will of William Simmons Sr. Aug. 29, 1822-Nov. 3, 1823

Wife Elizabeth, Son, William. Daughter, Cecelia Atwell. The Exec. wife, and Richard Simmons, (brother) wit; Mathew Wilson and Abraham Field

Will of Thomas Simmons, Oct. 20, 1822. wife Sally, Exec;
James Simmons (brother)

Will of Robert Simmons, June 24, 1820-June 1821. Wife Cathrine, sons; James, Thomas, Elisha, Esau, daughter, Sara Crenshaw, Susan Simmons

Noah Simmons-Inventary Jan. 1806

Griffin Simmons " Sept. 1808

Jessie Simmons " Apr. 1819

Grants in the County court orders 1836 -1924

Grantee	Acres	Book	Page	Date	Co.	Water course
Wm.H. Simmons	60	7	82	3/29/1840	Logan	Big Muddy creek
Wm.H. "	365	7	84	7/30/1840	"	Muddy River
Richard "	700	8	309	5/4/1841	Muhl.	Muddy River
R.H. Simmons	80	63	253	6/6/1862	Muhl.	" "
R.H. "	57	63	254	6/6/1862	"	" "
R.H. "	7	64	431	8/5/1864	"	" "
Alex Simmons	70	18	540	2/11/1846	Edmonson	Beaver Crk.
Alex "	100	51	177	10/15/1856	"	Green River
Robert Simmons	100	27	269	6/4/1847	Rockcastle	Dry Fork
John G. Simmons	40	28	309	4/27/1849	Barren	Trace Crk.
Wm.H. Simmons	250	34	447	4/14/1851	Logan	Muddy River
Wm.H. "	35	34	471	4/14/1851	"	" "
<i>Daniel Gunn</i> Jordan Simmons	<i>140 and 84</i> <i>7. 7. 1986</i>	44	655	6/1/1855	Barren	Little Crk.
Amos & Obidar "	100	51	243	10/15/1856	Edmonson	Beaver Dam Cr
George W. Simmons	5½	52	46	10/2/1856	Bullitt	(Boyards Is. (Salt River
Duff Green Simmons	43	63	255	6/7/1862	Muhl.	(Andrews). (Branch)

Frances Dick Seakat
Young & Well fair

man co

midwest mankato

I remember it's whole

By Little Mallory

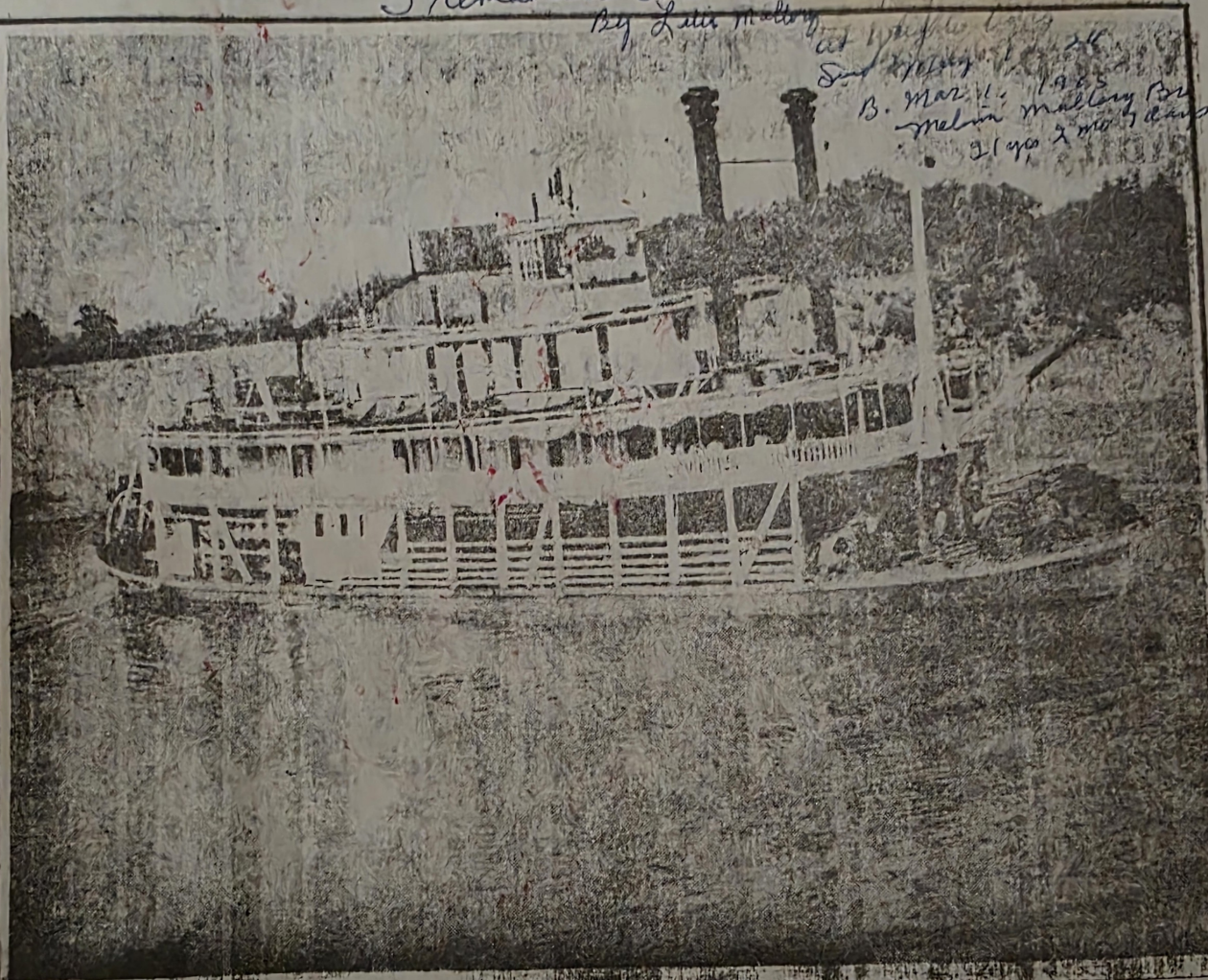
Raymond Mallory fur it

at 1000

B. Mar. 11, 1925

Melvin Mallory for

2140 2nd day



The Steamboat Evansville on the Green River. It burned in the 1930's.

These Pages are For Your Family.

To keep these pages, go back to the page of your grand father or great-grand father and mother, continue the page number to here and go forward with your family.

father
Samuel Franklin Knight Born 1849. Died in 1930's early Pub.⁷
mother
Dephas Cado - 8-3, 1878 3, 27, 1954 age 75yrs 7 mo 24 day
Married Susan J. Laake 5. 4 1903. Born 10.30.1884, 10.27.1945 age 60yrs 11 mo 27 day

Samuel Silas Knight married Phyllis Ellen Lindsey
5 children Born Jonelle Eileen, Yvonne Sue, Cynthia Allene,
Stephanie Diana, Annette Marie

Lee Harvey Oswald

Nov 22, 1963

9 Dallas nightclub owner

1984

Joseph Edward Knight
 Kentucky
 PVT 75th coast Army (AA)
 World War II
 July 13, 1913 Oct 5, 1963
~~5~~ down 10 3

Age 50
 3 months
 7 days

1945
 1502
 438
 114
 124
 322
 15

Lewis Knight
 PVT US Army
 World War II
 April 23, 1920 ←
 Jan 13, 1980

23
 Age 59 45,
 2 months = 22
 20 days Jim

Dallas F. Knight
 Feb 18, 1926
 Dec 10, 1984

Age 58
 10 months
 8 Days

Baby Knight
 Jan 18, 1993
 Jan 18, 1993

Age 1 Day
 203
 132
 71
 203
 181
 16
 1-18
 91
 19
 93
 203
 56

Samuel Knight
 Dec 23, 1910
 May 17, 1975

Age 65
 7 months
 6 days

may
 16

James Knight

7-21-93

